

NEW YORK FISH & AQUATIC INVERTEBRATE INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM

Scientific name: Oreochromis niloticus
 Common names: Nile Tilapia, Nile Mouthbrooder
 Native distribution: Subtropical eastern Africa, Middle East.
 Date assessed: 1/15/2013
 Assessors: E. Schwartzberg
 Reviewers: _____
 Date Approved: _____ Form version date: 3 January 2013

New York Invasiveness Rank: Moderate (Relative Maximum Score 50.00-69.99)

Distribution and Invasiveness Rank (<i>Obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form</i>)		
Status of this species in each PRISM:	Current Distribution	PRISM Invasiveness Rank
1 Adirondack Park Invasive Program	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
2 Capital/Mohawk	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
3 Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
4 Finger Lakes	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
5 Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
6 Lower Hudson	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
7 Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
8 Western New York	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

Invasiveness Ranking Summary (see details under appropriate sub-section)		Total (Total Answered*) Possible	Total
1	Ecological impact	30 (<u>20</u>)	17
2	Biological characteristic and dispersal ability	30 (<u>30</u>)	21
3	Ecological amplitude and distribution	30 (<u>30</u>)	12
4	Difficulty of control	10 (<u>10</u>)	7
	Outcome score	100 (<u>100</u>) ^b	57 ^a
	Relative maximum score †		57.00
	New York Invasiveness Rank §	Moderate (Relative Maximum Score 50.00-69.99)	

* For questions answered "unknown" do not include point value in "Total Answered Points Possible." If "Total Answered Points Possible" is less than 70.00 points, then the overall invasive rank should be listed as "Unknown."

† Calculated as 100(a/b) to two decimal places.

§ Very High >80.00; High 70.00–80.00; Moderate 50.00–69.99; Low 40.00–49.99; Insignificant <40.00

A. DISTRIBUTION (KNOWN/POTENTIAL): Summarized from individual PRISM forms

A1.1. Has this species been documented in NY? (reliable source; voucher not required)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – continue to A1.2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No – continue to A2.1; Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA; Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USA	
A1.2. In which PRISMs is it known (see inset map)?		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adirondack Park Invasive Program	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capital/Mohawk	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finger Lakes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lower Hudson	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Western New York
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Documentation:

Sources of information:
Nico et al., 2013.

A2.0. Is this species listed on the Federal Injurious Fish and Wildlife list?

- Yes – the species will automatically be listed as Prohibited, no further assessment required.
 No – continue to A2.1

A2.1. What is the likelihood that this species will occur and persist given the climate in the following PRISMs? (obtain from PRISM invasiveness ranking form and/ or Climatch score)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Not Assessed | Adirondack Park Invasive Program |
| Not Assessed | Capital/Mohawk |
| Not Assessed | Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership |
| Not Assessed | Finger Lakes |
| Not Assessed | Long Island Invasive Species Management Area |
| Not Assessed | Lower Hudson |
| Not Assessed | Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario |
| Not Assessed | Western New York |

Documentation:

Sources of information (e.g.: distribution models, literature, expert opinions):

If the species does not occur and is not likely to survive and reproduce within any of the PRISMs, then stop here as there is no need to assess the species.

A2.2. What is the current distribution of the species in each PRISM? (obtain rank from PRISM invasiveness ranking forms)

	Distribution
Adirondack Park Invasive Program	Not Assessed
Capital/Mohawk	Not Assessed
Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership	Not Assessed
Finger Lakes	Not Assessed
Long Island Invasive Species Management Area	Not Assessed
Lower Hudson	Not Assessed
Saint Lawrence/Eastern Lake Ontario	Not Assessed
Western New York	Not Assessed

Documentation:

Sources of information:

A2.3. Describe the potential or known suitable habitats within New York. Natural habitats include all habitats not under active human management. Managed habitats are indicated with an asterisk.

- | Aquatic Habitats | Wetland Habitats | Upland Habitats |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marine | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt/brackish marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivated* |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Salt/ brackish waters | <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> Grasslands/old fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater tidal | <input type="checkbox"/> Peatlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Shrublands |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rivers/streams | <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub swamps | <input type="checkbox"/> Forests/woodlands |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural lakes and ponds | <input type="checkbox"/> Forested wetlands/riparian | <input type="checkbox"/> Alpine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vernal pools | <input type="checkbox"/> Ditches* | <input type="checkbox"/> Roadsides* |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reservoirs/ impoundments* | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaches/or coastal dunes | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural* |

Other potential or known suitable habitats within New York:

Irrigation canals, sewage canals

Documentation:

Sources of information:
FishBase, 2013.

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B. INVASIVENESS RANKING

1. ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

1.1. Impact on Ecosystem Processes and System-wide Parameters (e.g., water cycle, energy cycle, nutrient and mineral dynamics, light availability, or geomorphological changes (erosion and sedimentation rates).

- A. No perceivable impact on ecosystem processes based on research studies, or the absence of impact information if a species is widespread (>10 occurrences in minimally managed areas), has been well-studied (>10 reports/publications), and has been present in the northeast for >100 years. 0
- B. Influences ecosystem processes to a minor degree, has a perceivable but mild influence 3
- C. Significant alteration of ecosystem processes 7
- D. Major, possibly irreversible, alteration or disruption of ecosystem processes 10
- U. Unknown

Score 10

Documentation:

Identify ecosystem processes impacted (or if applicable, justify choosing answer A in the absence of impact information)

Most research focused on ability of tilapia to tolerate system wide parameter extremes. Figueredo and Giani (2005) demonstrate an increase in phosphorous and nitrogen, cause alteration of algal composition, as well as eutrophication.

Sources of information:

Figueredo and Giani, 2005.

1.2. Impact on Natural Habitat/ Community Composition

- A. No perceived impact; causes no apparent change in native populations 0
- B. Influences community composition (e.g., reduces the number of individuals of one or more native species in the community) 3
- C. Significantly alters community composition (e.g., produces a significant reduction in the population size of one or more native species in the community) 7
- D. Causes major alteration in community composition (e.g., results in the extirpation of one or several native species, reducing biodiversity or change the community composition towards species exotic to the natural community) 10
- U. Unknown

Score 10

Documentation:

Identify type of impact or alteration:

Cause the depletion of native fish species in Uganda (Ogutu & Ohwayo, 1993) and have replaced native populations (Goudswaard, 2005). In the United States similar competition, explained mainly as breeding behavior aggression, cause similar effects on community composition (Canonico, 2005; Peterson et al., 2002 within Canonico, 2005).

Sources of information:

Canonico, 2005; Goudswaard, 2005; Ogutu & Ohwayo, 1993; Peterson et al., 2002.

1.3. Impact on other species or species groups, including cumulative impact of this species on other organisms in the community it invades. (e.g., interferes with native predator/ prey dynamics; injurious components/ spines; reduction in spawning; hybridizes with a native species; hosts a non-native disease which impacts a native species)

- A. Negligible perceived impact 0
- B. Minor impact (e.g. impacts 1 species, <20% population decline, limited host damage) 3

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- C. Moderate impact (e.g. impacts 2-3 species and/ or 20-29% population decline of any 1 species, kills host in 2-5 years, ,) 7
- D. Severe impact on other species or species groups (e.g. impacts >3 species and/ or ≥30% population decline of any 1 species, kills host within 2 years, extirpation) 10
- U. Unknown

Score

7

Documentation:

Identify type of impact or alteration:

Impact on other related species thought to be minimized due to Nile tilapia foraging at lower trophic levels (on benthic invertebrates and detritivores) (Peterson et al., 2006), although Nile tilapia were shown to compete with native sunfish for preferred habitat and indirectly result in increased sunfish predation by largemouth bass in lab experiments (Martin, 2010).

Sources of information:

Martin, 2010.

Total Possible

30

Section One Total

27

2. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND DISPERSAL ABILITY

2.1. Mode and rate of reproduction (provisional thresholds, more investigation needed)

- A. No reproduction (e.g. sterile with no sexual or asexual reproduction). 0
- B. Limited reproduction (e.g., intrinsic rate of increase <10%, low fecundity, complete one life cycle) 1
- C. Moderate reproduction (e.g., intrinsic rate of increase between 10-30%, moderate fecundity, complete 2-3 life cycles) 2
- D. Abundant reproduction (e.g., intrinsic rate of increase >30%, parthenogenesis, large egg masses, complete > 3 life cycles) 4
- U. Unknown

Score

2

Documentation:

Describe key reproductive characteristics:

100-1500 eggs, mouthbrooders, breed year round (FAO, 2013).

Sources of information:

FAO, 2013; FishBase. 2013.

2.2. Migratory behavior

- A. Always migratory in its native range 0
- B. Non-migratory or facultative migrant in its native range 2
- U. Unknown

Score

2

Documentation:

Describe migratory behavior:

Non-migratory

Sources of information:

2.3. Biological potential for colonization by long-distance dispersal/ movement (e.g., veligers, resting stage eggs, glochidia)

- A. No long-distance dispersal/ movement mechanisms 0
- B. Adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal, but studies report that most individuals (90%) establish territories within 5 miles of natal origin or within a distance twice the home range of the typical individual, and tend not to cross major barriers such as dams and watershed divides 1
- C. Adaptations exist for long-distance dispersal, movement and evidence that offspring often 2

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disperse greater than 5 miles of natal origin or greater than twice the home range of typical individual and will cross major barriers such as dams and watershed divides

U. Unknown

Score 1

Documentation:

Identify dispersal mechanisms:

As a mouthbrooding species, Nile tilapia have the ability to transport young.

Sources of information:

Canonico, et al., 2005

2.4. Practical potential to be spread by human activities, both directly and indirectly – possible vectors include: commercial bait sales, deliberate illegal stocking, aquaria releases, boat trailers, canals, ballast water exchange, live food trade, rehabilitation, pest control industry, aquaculture escapes, etc.)

- A. Does not occur 0
- B. Low (human dispersal to new areas occurs almost exclusively by direct means and is infrequent or inefficient) 1
- C. Moderate (human dispersal to new areas occurs by direct and indirect means to a moderate extent) 2
- D. High (opportunities for human dispersal to new areas by direct and indirect means are numerous, frequent, and successful) 4
- U. Unknown

Score 2

Documentation:

Identify dispersal mechanisms:

Accidental release from fish farms (Nico et al., 2013), especially floating cages (Canonico, et al., 2005). Nile tilapia are also used as bait fish, as biological control, and as aquaria fish.

Sources of information:

Canonico, et al., 2005.; Nico et al., 2013.

2.5. Non-living chemical and physical characteristics that increase competitive advantage (e.g., tolerance to various extremes, pH, DO, temperature, desiccation, fill vacant niche, charismatic species)

- A. Possesses no characteristics that increase competitive advantage 0
- B. Possesses one characteristic that increases competitive advantage 4
- C. Possesses two or more characteristics that increase competitive advantage 8
- U. Unknown

Score 8

Documentation:

Evidence of competitive ability:

Fast-growing and tolerant of a range of environmental conditions.

Sources of information:

Canonico, et al., 2005.

2.6. Biological characteristics that increase competitive advantage (e.g., high fecundity, generalist/ broad niche space, highly evolved defense mechanisms, behavioral adaptations, piscivorous, etc.)

- A. Possesses no characteristics that increase competitive advantage 0
- B. Possesses one characteristic that increases competitive advantage 4
- C. Possesses two or more characteristics that increase competitive advantage 8
- U. Unknown

Score 4

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Documentation:
 Evidence of competitive ability:
 Can be flexible feeders.
 Sources of information:
 FAO, 2013.

- 2.7. Other species in the family and/ or genus invasive in New York or elsewhere?
- | | | |
|-------|---------|---|
| A. | No | 0 |
| B. | Yes | 2 |
| U. | Unknown | |
| Score | | 2 |

Documentation:
 Identify species:
 spotted tilapia (*Tilapia mariae*), blackchin tilapia (*Sarotherodon melanotheron*), longfin tilapia, redbreast tilapia, and redbelly ilapia (*Tilapia zillii*) (Canonico, et al., 2005).

Total Possible	30
Section Two Total	21

3. ECOLOGICAL AMPLITUDE AND DISTRIBUTION

- 3.1. Current introduced distribution in the northern latitudes of USA and southern latitude of Canada (e.g., between 35 and 55 degrees).
- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| A. | Not known from the northern US or southern Canada. | 0 |
| B. | Established as a non-native in 1 northern USA state and/or southern Canadian province. | 1 |
| C. | Established as a non-native in 2 or 3 northern USA states and/or southern Canadian provinces. | 2 |
| D. | Established as a non-native in 4 or more northern USA states and/or southern Canadian provinces, and/or categorized as a problem species (e.g., “Invasive”) in 1 northern state or southern Canadian province. | 3 |
| U. | Unknown | |
| Score | | 1 |

Documentation:
 Identify states and provinces:
 MA
 Sources of information:

- See known introduced range at www.usda.gov, and update with information from states and Canadian provinces.

 Nico et al., 2013.

- 3.2. Current introduced distribution of the species in natural areas in the eight New York State PRISMs (Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)
- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---|
| A. | Established in none of the PRISMs | 0 |
| B. | Established in 1 PRISM | 1 |
| C. | Established in 2 or 3 PRISMs | 3 |
| D. | Established in 4 or more PRISMs | 5 |
| U. | Unknown | |
| Score | | 0 |

Documentation:
 Describe distribution:
 Not in New York State. Recorded in Massachussetts.
 Sources of information:
 Nico et al., 2013.

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3.3. Number of known, or potential (each individual possessed by a vendor or consumer), individual releases and/ or release events

- A. None 0
- B. Few releases (e.g., <10 annually). 2
- C. Regular, small scale releases (e.g., 10-99 annually). 4
- D. Multiple, large scale (e.g., ≥100 annually). 6
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Describe known or potential releases:

Tilapia released as a stocking fish, and sold commercially.

Sources of information:

White Brook, 2013.

3.4. Current introduced population density, or distance to known occurrence, in northern USA and/ or southern Canada.

- A. No known populations established. 0
- B. Low to moderate population density (e.g., ≤1/4 to < 1/2 native population density) with few other invasives present and/ or documented in 1 or more non-adjacent state/ province and/ or 1 unconnected waterbody. 1
- C. High or irruptive population density (e.g., ≥1/2 native population density) with numerous other invasives present and/ or documented in 1 or more adjacent state/ province and/ or 1 connected waterbody. 2
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:

Describe population density:

Recorded in Massachusetts. Distribution much more southern in United States.

Sources of information:

Zambrano, 2006.

3.5. Number of habitats the species may invade

- A. Not known to invade any natural habitats given at A2.3. 0
- B. Known to occur in 2 or 3 of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least 1 or 2 natural habitat(s). 2
- C. Known to occur in 4 or more of the habitats given at A2.3, with at least 3 natural habitats. 3
- U. Unknown.

Score

Documentation:

Identify type of habitats where it occurs and degree/type of impacts:

Rivers, lakes, culverts, resevoirs, brackish waters.

Sources of information:

FishBase, 2013.

3.6. Role of anthropogenic (human related) and natural disturbance in establishment (e.g. water level management, man-made structures, high vehicle traffic, major storm events, etc).

- A. Requires anthropogenic disturbances to establish. 0
- B. May occasionally establish in undisturbed areas but can readily establish in areas with natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 2

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- C. Can establish independent of any known natural or anthropogenic disturbances. 3
- U. Unknown.

Score 3

Documentation:
Identify type of disturbance:

Sources of information:

3.7. Climate in native range (e.g., med. to high, ≥ 5 , Climatch score; within 35 to 55 degree latitude; etc.)

- A. Native range does not include climates similar to New York (e.g., <10%). 0
- B. Native range possibly includes climates similar to portions of New York (e.g., 10-29%). 4
- C. Native range includes climates similar to those in New York (e.g., $\geq 30\%$). 8
- U. Unknown.

Score 0

Documentation:
Describe known climate similarities:
Very low Climatch score
Sources of information:
ADAFF, 2013.

Total Possible 30
Section Three Total 12

4. DIFFICULTY OF CONTROL

4.1. Re-establishment potential, nearby propagule source, known vectors of re-introduction (e.g. biological supplies, pets, aquaria, aquaculture facilities, connecting waters/ corridors, mechanized transportation, live wells, etc.)

- A. No known vectors/ propagule source for re-establishment following removal. 0
- B. Possible re-establishment from 1 vector/ propagule source following removal and/ or viable <24 hours. 1
- C. Likely to re-establish from 2-3 vectors/ propagule sources following removal and/ or viable 2-7 days. 2
- D. Strong potential for re-establishment from 4 or more vectors/ propagule sources following removal and/or viable >7 days. 3
- U. Unknown.

Score 2

Documentation:
Identify source/ vectors:
Escape from aquaculture or effluent ponds.
Sources of information:
Peterson et al., 2005.

4.2. Status of monitoring and/ or management protocols for species

- A. Standardized protocols appropriate to New York State are available. 0
- B. Scientific protocols are available from other countries, regions or states. 1
- C. No known protocols exist. 2
- U. Unknown

Score 2

Documentation:
Describe protocols:

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Sources of information:

4.3. Status of monitoring and/ or management resources (e.g. tools, manpower, travel, traps, lures, ID keys, taxonomic specialists, etc.)

- A. Established resources are available including commercial and/ or research tools 0
- B. Monitoring resources may be available (e.g. partnerships, NGOs, etc) 1
- C. No known monitoring resources are available 2
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:
Describe resources:
Invasive species risk analysis for aquaculture exists.
Sources of information:
Copp et al., 2008.

4.4. Level of effort required

- A. Management is not required. (e.g., species does not persist without repeated human mediated action.) 0
- B. Management is relatively easy and inexpensive; invasive species can be maintained at low abundance causing little or no ecological harm. (e.g., 10 or fewer person-hours of manual effort can eradicate a local infestation in 1 year.) 1
- C. Management requires a major short-term investment, and is logistically and politically challenging; eradication is difficult, but possible. (e.g., 100 or fewer person-hours/year of manual effort, or up to 10 person-hours/ year for 2-5 years to suppress a local infestation.) 2
- D. Management requires a major investment and is logistically and politically difficult; eradication may be impossible. (e.g., more than 100 person-hours/ year of manual effort, or more than 10 person hours/year for more than 5 years to suppress a local infestation.) 3
- U. Unknown

Score

Documentation:
Identify types of control methods and time required:
Management tactics discussed. See references within, Rotenone
Sources of information:
GISD, 2013; Schofield, 2007.

Total Possible
Section Four Total

Total for 4 sections Possible
Total for 4 sections

C. STATUS OF GENETIC VARIANTS AND HYBRIDS:

At the present time there is no protocol or criteria for assessing the invasiveness of genetic variants independent of the species to which they belong. Such a protocol is needed, and individuals with the appropriate expertise should address this issue in the future. Such a protocol will likely require data on cultivar fertility and identification in both experimental and natural settings.

Genetic variants of the species known to exist:

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Hybrids (crosses between different parent species) should be assessed individually and separately from the parent species wherever taxonomically possible, since their invasiveness may differ from that of the parent species. An exception should be made if the taxonomy of the species and hybrids are uncertain, and species and hybrids can not be clearly distinguished in the field. In such cases it is not feasible to distinguish species and hybrids, and they can only be assessed as a single unit.

Hybrids of uncertain origin known to exist: Known to hybridize easily (D'Amato et al. 2007). The red hybrid tilapia (*O. mossambicus* x *O. niloticus*).

References for species assessment:

- Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry (ADAFF). 2012. Climatch Mapping Tool. <<http://adl.brs.gov.au:8080/Climatch/climatch.jsp>>; [Accessed on January 15, 2013].
- Canonico, G.C., A. Arthington, J.K. McCrary, and M.L. Thieme. 2005. The effects of introduced tilapias on native biodiversity. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 15(5): 463–483.
- Copp, H. G. et al. 2008. Environmental impacts of alien species in aquaculture: Risk assessment protocols and decision making tools for use of alien species in aquaculture and stock enhancement. Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas). 85 Pgs.
- D'Amato, M.E., M.M. Esterhuysen, B.C.W. van der Waal, D. Brink, and F.A.M. Volckaert. 2007. Hybridization and phylogeography of the Mozambique tilapia *Oreochromis mossambicus* in southern Africa evidenced by mitochondrial and microsatellite DNA genotyping. *Conservation Genetics* 8: 475-488.
- Figueredo, C. C., and A. Giani, (2005). Ecological interactions between Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*, L.) and the phytoplanktonic community of the Furnas Reservoir (Brazil). *Freshwater Biology*, 50(8): 1391-1403.
- FishBase, 2013. *Oreochromis niloticus niloticus*. <<http://www.fishbase.org/summary/Oreochromis-niloticus+niloticus.html>>; [Accessed on January 15, 2013].
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- Global Invasive Species Database (GISD), 2013. *Oreochromis niloticus*: management information. <http://www.issg.org/database/species/management_info.asp?si=1322&fr=1&sts=&lang=EN>; [Accessed on January 15, 2013].
- Goudswaard, P. C., F. Witte, and E.F.B. Katunzi. (2005). The tilapiine fish stock of Lake Victoria before and after the Nile perch upsurge. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 60(4): 838-856.
- McCrary, J.K., E.P. Van Den Berghe, K.R. McKaye, K. R., & Lopez Perez, L. J. (2001). Tilapia cultivation: a threat to native fish species in Nicaragua. *Encuentro*, 58, 9-19.
- Nico, L.G., P.J. Schofield, and M. Neilson. 2013. *Oreochromis niloticus*. USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Database, Gainesville, FL. <<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=468>>; [Accessed on January 15, 2013].
- Ogutu - Ohwayo, R. (1993). The effects of predation by Nile perch, *Lates niloticus* L., on the fish of Lake Nabugabo, with suggestions for conservation of endangered endemic cichlids. *Conservation Biology*, 7(3): 701-711.
- Peterson, M.S., W.T. Slack, and C.M. Woodley, 2005. The occurrence of non-indigenous Nile tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus* (Linnaeus) in coastal Mississippi, USA: Ties to aquaculture and thermal effluent. *Wetlands* 25(1): 112–121.

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- Peterson MS, Woodley CM, Slack WT. 2002. The influence of invasive, non-native tilapiine fishes on freshwater recreational fishes in south Mississippi: spatial/temporal distribution, species associations, and trophic interactions. Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks: Jackson, MI.
- Peterson, M. S., W.T. Slack, G.L. Waggy, J. Finley, C.M. Woodley, and M.L. Partyka, (2006). Foraging in non-native environments: comparison of Nile Tilapia and three co-occurring native centrarchids in invaded coastal Mississippi watersheds. Environmental biology of fishes, 76(2): 283-301.
- Schofield PJ, W.T. Slack, M.S. Peterson, D.R. Gregoire. 2007. Assessment and control of an invasive aquaculture species: an update on Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) in coastal Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. Southeastern Fishes Council Proceedings 49: 9-15.
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Citation: The New York Fish & Aquatic Invertebrate Invasiveness Ranking Form is an adaptation of the New York Plant Invasiveness Ranking Form. The original plant form may be cited as: Jordan, M.J., G. Moore and T.W. Weldy. 2008. Invasiveness ranking system for non-native plants of New York. Unpublished. The Nature Conservancy, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY; The Nature Conservancy, Albany, NY.

Acknowledgments: The New York Fish and Aquatic Invertebrate Invasiveness Ranking Form incorporates components and approaches used in several other systems, cited in the references below. Valuable contributions by members of the Invasive Species Council and Invasive Species Advisory Committee were incorporated in revisions of this form. Members of the Office of Invasive Species Coordination's Four-tier Team, who coordinated the effort, included representatives of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation* (Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, Division of Lands and Forests, Division of Water); The Nature Conservancy; New York Natural Heritage Program; New York Sea Grant*; Lake Champlain Sea Grant*; New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (Division of Plant Industry and Division of Animal Industry); Cornell University (Department of Natural Resources and Department of Entomology); New York State Nursery and Landscape Association; New York Farm Bureau; Brooklyn Botanic Garden; Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council*; Trout Unlimited*; United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (Plant Protection and Quarantine and Wildlife Services); New York State Department of Transportation; State University of New York at Albany and Plattsburgh*; and Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. Those organizations listed with an asterisk comprised the Fish and Aquatic Invertebrate Working Group.

References for ranking form:

- Bomford, M. 2008. Risk Assessment Models for Establishment of Exotic Vertebrates in Australia and New Zealand. Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra.
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