

# 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 RavenUSFWS



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) 223-6371**.