



GLDIATR

Great Lakes Detector of
Invasive Aquatics in Trade

Autumn McGowan

Great Lakes Commission

May 2026 Binational Great Lakes AIS Forum

www.glc.org/work/gldiatr/



GLDIATR Great Lakes Detector of Invasive Aquatics in Trade



Great Lakes Detector of Invasive Aquatics in Trade or **GLDIATR**

Goal: to collect, analyze, and allow users to access information about how many and what types of Great Lakes aquatic invasive species are being sold on the internet



GLDIATR throughout the ages

Phase 1: 2012 - 2016

Phase 2: 2016 - 2021

Phase 3: 2021 - **current**

HIGHLIGHTS

- **192** target species have been searched for over the course of the project
- **80** different invasive species have been found for sale
- Since GLDIATR started, **over 500 sellers have been contacted about selling invasive species**



Phase III data collection

- Third-party contractor
 - ScrapeHero
 - Marketplaces (eBay, Amazon, Etsy, & Kijiji) & Bing
 - Halted in 2024
- eBay API trial
 - 2025/2026

ScrapeHero - Trial runs

- Monthly November '23 – March '24
- 19 species
- 39 search terms

ScrapeHero - Full species list

- May & July 2024
- 66 species
- 138 search terms

eBay API Trial - Full species list

- Monthly October '25 – January '26
- 66 species
- 138 search terms
- 2 search categories:
 - Pet Supplies > Fish & Aquariums
 - Home & Garden > Yard, Garden & Outdoor Living

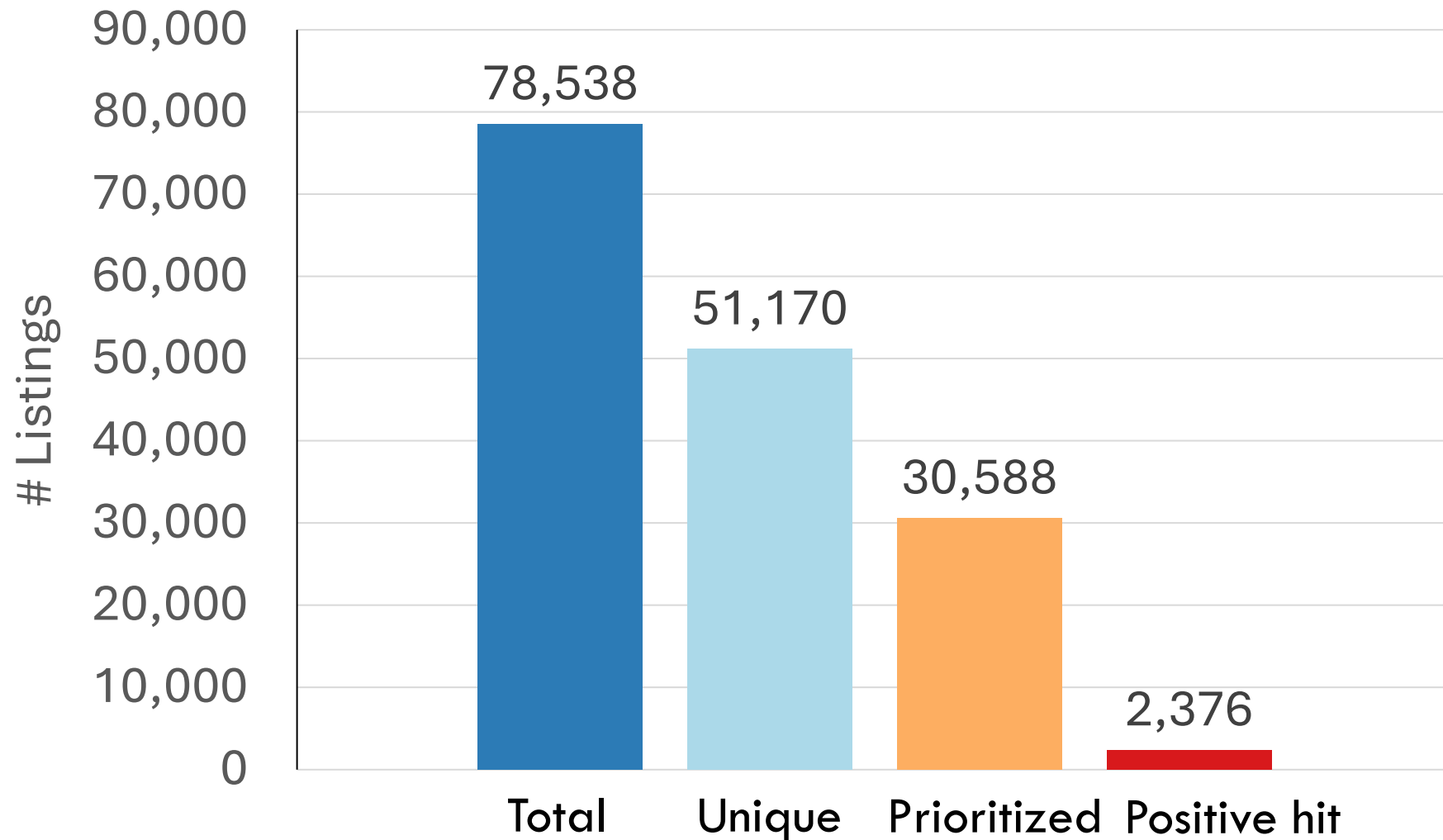




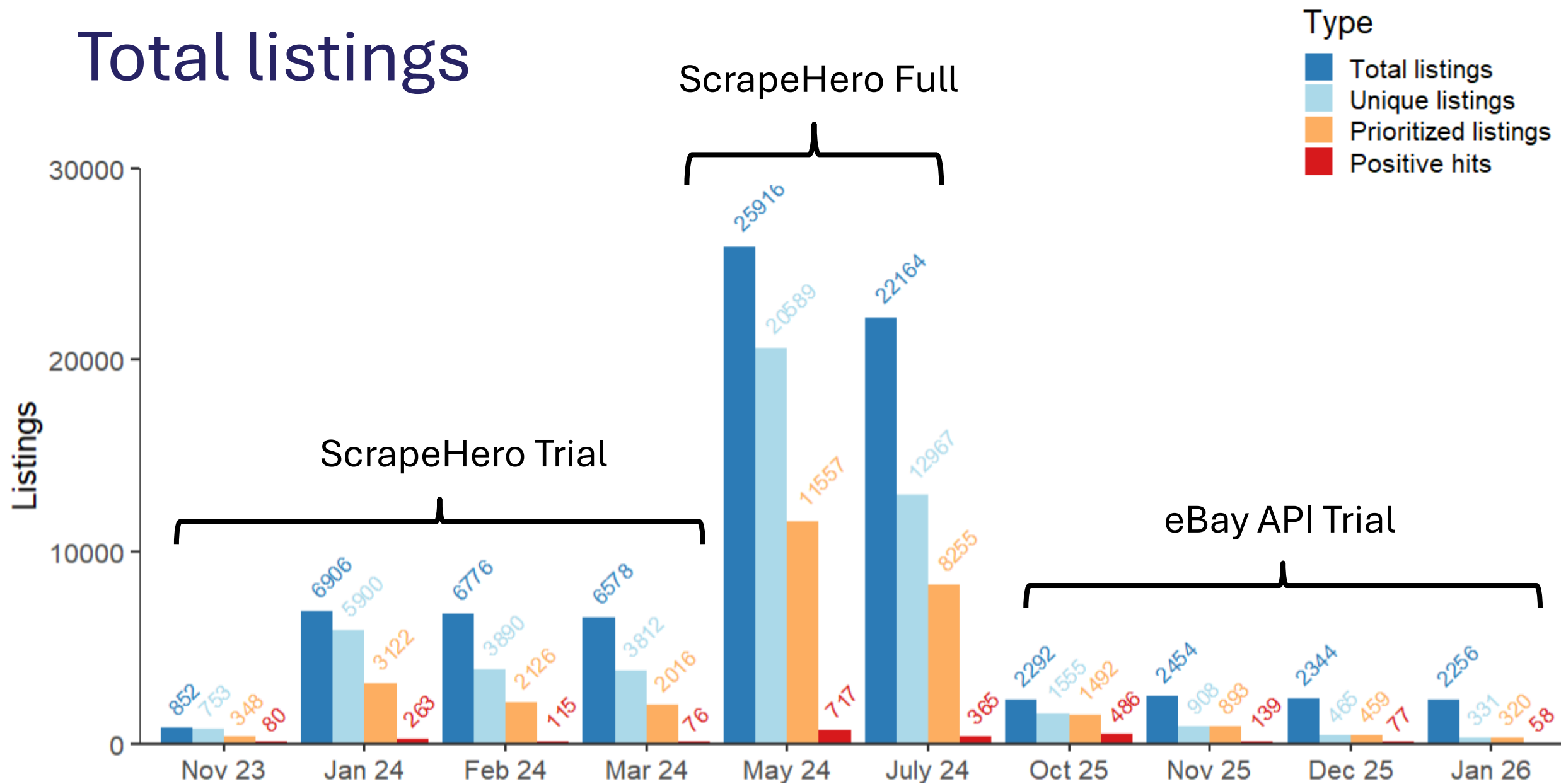
Results



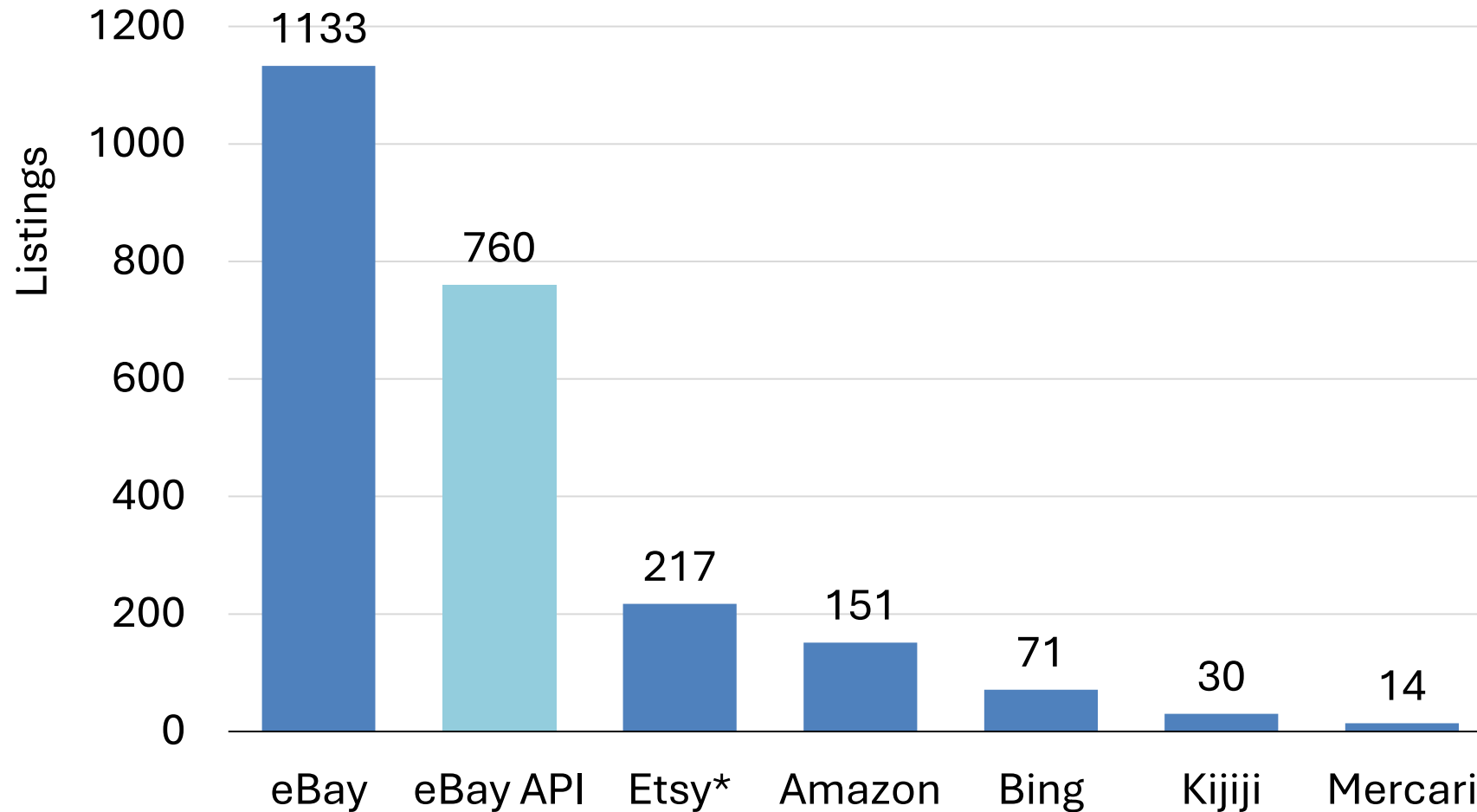
Total listings for Phase III



Total listings



Listings/ marketplace



2,376
“Positive hits”

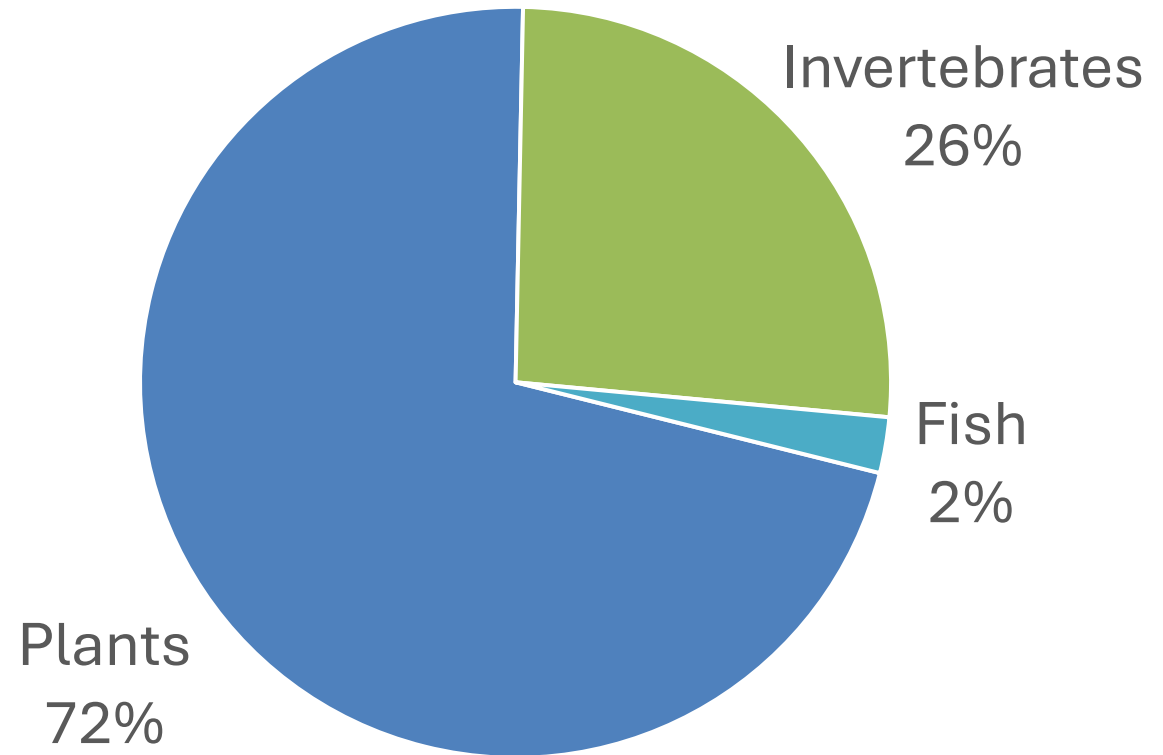
868
sellers

*Etsy only
sells plants

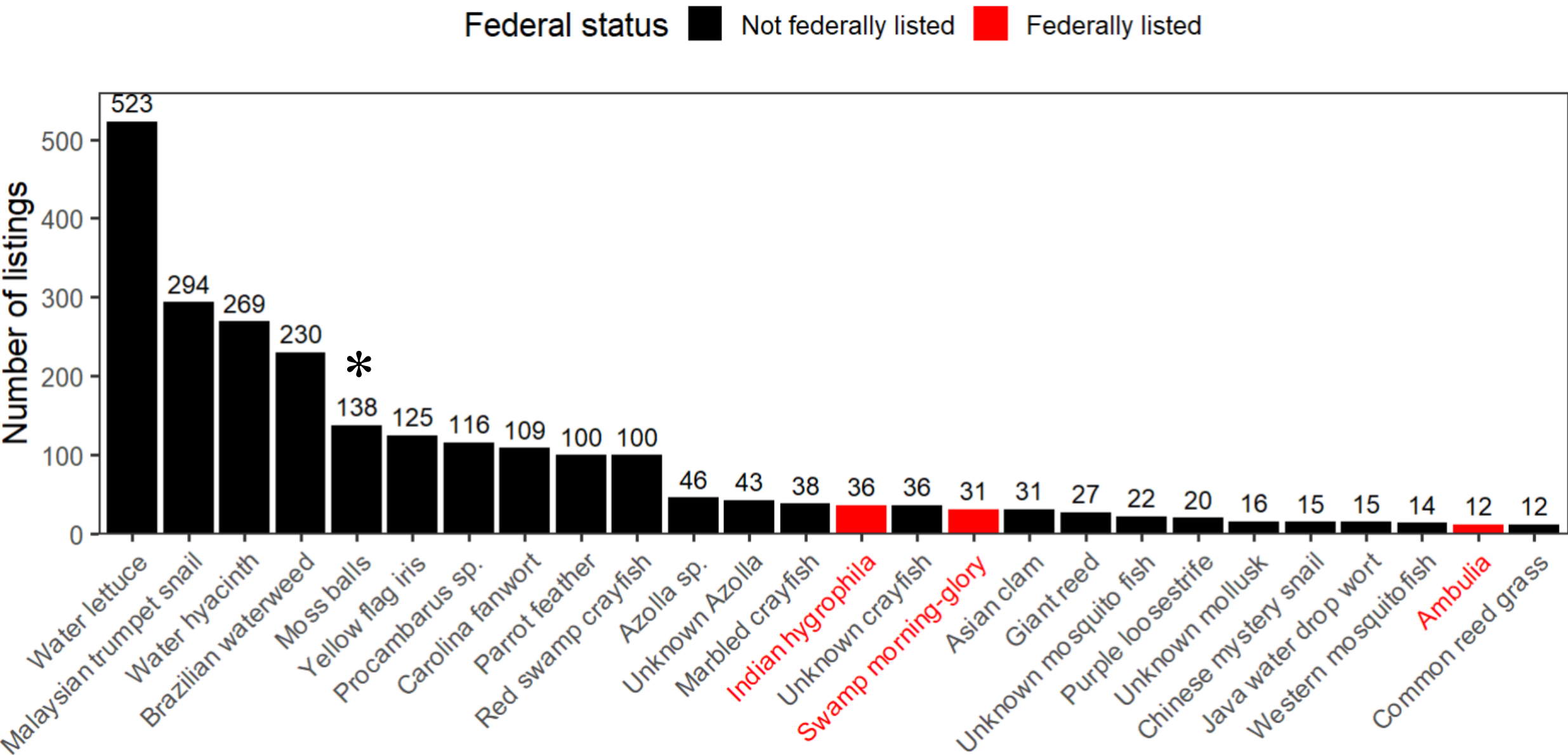


Most common taxa

❖ 53 species found



Most common species



24 Species NOT found

Federally regulated

Anchored water hyacinth	Arrowhead	Bighead carp
Black carp	Chinese mitten crab	Feathered mosquitofern
Floating primrose willow	Grass carp	Hybrid watermilfoil
Hydrilla	Ide	Marron
Northern snakehead	Nutria	Oxygen weed
Red-eared slider	Silver carp	Smooth buckthorn
Snakehead	Snakehead (Parachanna)	Stone moroko
Tench	Water soldier	Zander



Outreach Process

We created GLC marketplace accounts for Amazon, eBay, Etsy, Mercari, and Kijiji in order to contact sellers



- Includes recommendations on including:
 - State Shipping Restrictions
 - Disposal Methods
 - Scientific Names
- Only to sellers that still had **active listings**
- Emphasized adding our recommended actions to listing descriptions that are still missing after first contact
- Tracks any changes the sellers make because of GLC contact



Outreach progress

- 633 contacts sent so far
- 25% of cases had at least one response from sellers
- Issues with outreach (e.g., platform daily limits, character/message limitations)

Response type	# Responses	% Responses
Acknowledged / Non-corrective responses	60	44.8
Receptive / Proposed listing modifications	51	38.1
Information seeking	13	9.7
Hostile / Adversarial	8	6.0
Automated response	2	1.5



Outreach progress

- Beginning follow-up assessments of behavior change

Assessment	# Cases	% Cases
No longer selling	88	38.9
No observable behavior change	38	16.8
Partial behavior change	28	12.4
Already in compliance	27	11.9
Store closed	23	10.2
Now in compliance	22	9.7



Mixed responses



New message from: [missyschultzfaulkner](#) (580  PURPLE_STAR Star)

I added info to the listing to be sure no one from the listing states tries to purchase the item
Thanks so much for reaching out
It's super appreciated!!!!

[Reply](#)

Greetings, Bureaucrats!

Your baseless accusation is duly noted and immediately rejected. You've cited no statute, no regulation, no legal authority whatsoever, nor provided a shred of evidence. Absent those, this is textbook overreach, and I have zero obligation to entertain it.



You may go pound sand.





Shipping Restriction Dashboard



Product

A nationally focused Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) restriction database

Purpose

Buyers and online sellers can use the database to quickly check whether a specific aquatic species is legal to sell, possess, or ship in a given state



Process

- Develop a workflow between GLC and National Sea Grant Law Center (NSGLC)
- Start with pre-established list of U.S. national AIS regulations (NSGLC)
- Adapt an existing regulations database framework (GLC)
- Publish the dashboard summer 2026 to the NSGLC website
- Establish sustainable, long-term hosting and maintenance plan



Scope of Data

- AIS regulations across the United States
 - Regulatory actions
 - Prohibited (import, possession, sell)
 - Restricted (transport, export)
 - Permit-required
 - Covered species
- Excluded data
 - Canadian restrictions
 - Aquaculture, bait, & seed regulations

I	J	K	L	M
transport	transplant	own	possession	release
1			1	
			1	
1		1	1	
1			1	
1			1	
1			1	
1			1	
1			1	
1			1	
1			1	
1			1	

Jurisdiction	regulatory_status	taxa_category	common_name	sci_name	taxonomic_level
Alabama	Prohibited	Plant	African elodea	Lagarosiphon spp.	Genus
Alabama	Prohibited	Plant	Alligatorweed	Alternanthera philoxeroides	Species
Alabama	Prohibited	Plant	Brazilian elodea	Egeria densa	Species
Alabama	Prohibited	Plant	Curlyleaf pondweed	Potamogeton crispus	Species
Alabama	Prohibited	Plant	Eurasian watermilfoil	Myriophyllum spicatum	Species
Alabama	Prohibited	Plant	Floating waterhyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes	Species
Alabama	Prohibited	Plant	Giant salvinia	Salvinia molesta	Species



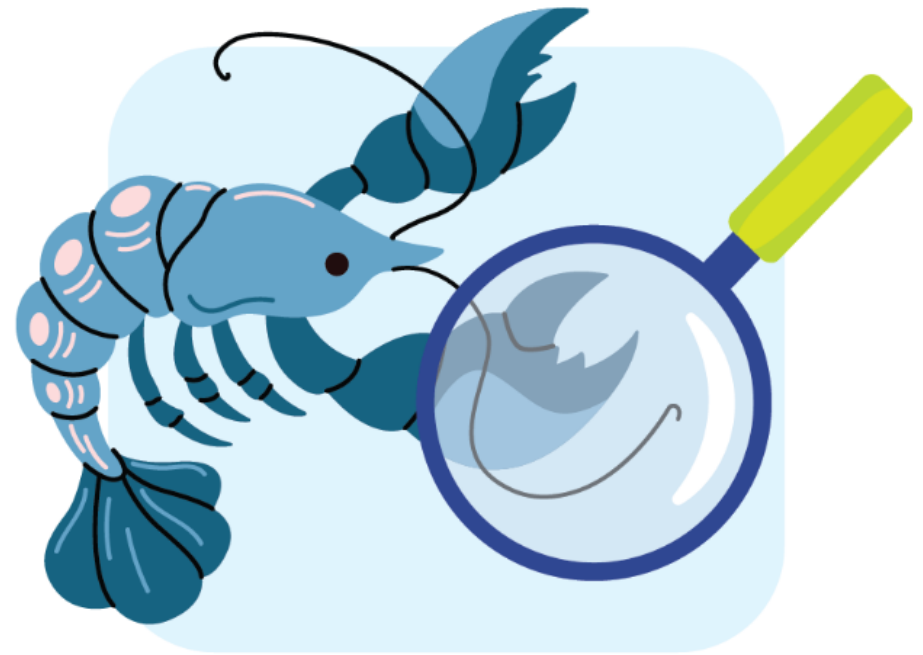
Responsible Aquatics Guide

See if an aquatic species is legal to buy, sell, or keep in your state.

Before You Trade, Verify Legality

Check state and federal rules before buying or selling aquatic plant or animal species. Use our database to ensure your activities comply with local regulations and help protect freshwater ecosystems.

- Search by **state** to see permitted and prohibited activities.
- Check whether it's legal to **buy, sell, import, transport, or possess** specific species.
- Get **direct links** to official agency rules and registration pages.
- Learn best practices to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.



 I'm a seller

 I'm a buyer

 Learn more





Find your species

How would you like to find your species?

☒ Search ☐ Select from lists

Search species

Matches:

Brazilian Elodea — Egeria densa

Go

Search for a species

Use the search or dropdowns to the left to find a species.

Then click 'Go' to view restrictions and regulations.

Results will appear here once a species is selected.





Viewing restrictions for:

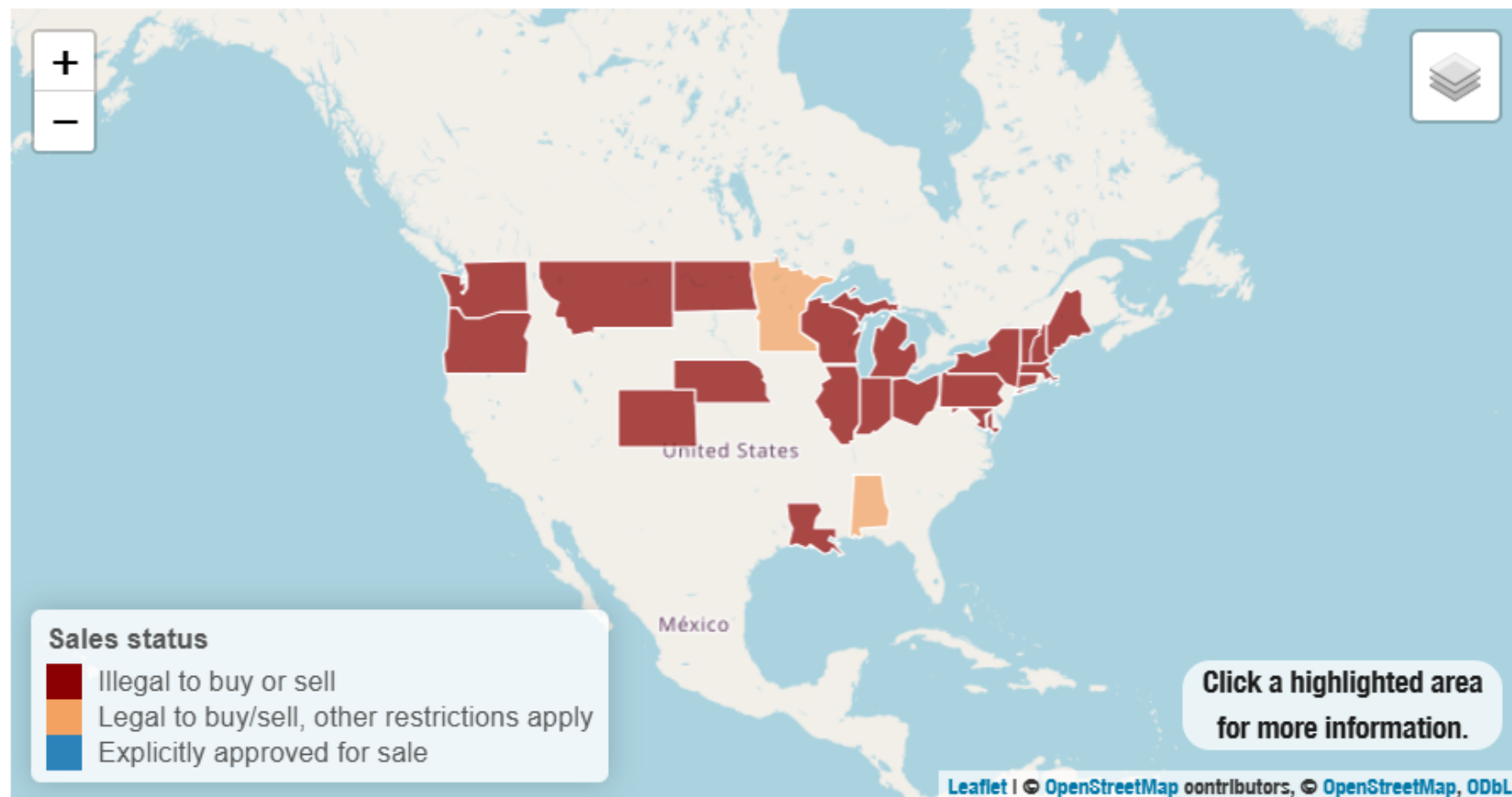
Brazilian Elodea

Egeria densa



You cannot sell this species in Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, or Wisconsin.

Where this species is restricted



Species information



- **Alternate common/trade names:** Anacharis; Brazalian Elodea; Brazilian-Waterweed; Brazilian Waterweed; Common Waterweed; Egeria; Elodea; South American Waterweed; Wide-Leaf Anacharis
- **Alternate scientific names:** Anacharis densa; Elodea densa; Philotria densa
- **Family:** Hydrocharitaceae

If you are aware of any other common, scientific, or trade names for this species, please contact us at taaja@glc.org.

Example text for sales page



Use this example text for your sales listing:

- **State Restrictions:** This species cannot be shipped or sold to the following states due to local regulations: Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, or Wisconsin. The species is not restricted from sales in Alabama or Minnesota but is regulated in other ways. Please verify your local laws before ordering.
- **Invasive Species Notice:** This species has the potential to become invasive if released into the wild. Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species!
- **Disposal Instructions:** If you no longer wish to keep this species, never release it outdoors. Instead, consider these options:
 - Rehome through a trusted network or local adoption group.
 - Contact your local animal shelter, plant society, or extension office for guidance.
 - Follow humane disposal methods recommended by your state or local authorities.



List of restrictions for Brazilian Elodea

The table below indicates which actions are explicitly stated or implied to be restricted in each law. It may not cover all prohibited actions. Click the links to review the actual wording of each law for full details. In some cases, we've inferred additional restrictions; for example, if a law prohibits 'possession,' we also assume 'purchase' is prohibited, even if not explicitly mentioned. For definitions of each action, refer to our [Learn More](#) page.

Show 10 ▾ entries

State	Designation	Transport	Possession	Import	Purchase	Sell	Offer for sale	Law	More info
Alabama	Prohibited	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	Ala. Admin. Code r. 220-2-.124	Click for more info
Colorado	Prohibited	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	2 Colo. Code Regs. § 405-8:800	Click for more info
Connecticut	Prohibited	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	Conn Gen. Stat. § 22a-381d	Click for more info
Illinois	Prohibited	☒	☒	☐	☒	☒	☒	Ill. Admin. Code tit. 17, pt. 805	Click for more info
Indiana	Prohibited	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	312 IAC 18-3-23	Click for more info
Louisiana	Prohibited	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	☐	La. Admin. Code tit. 76, § VII-1101	





Viewing restrictions for:

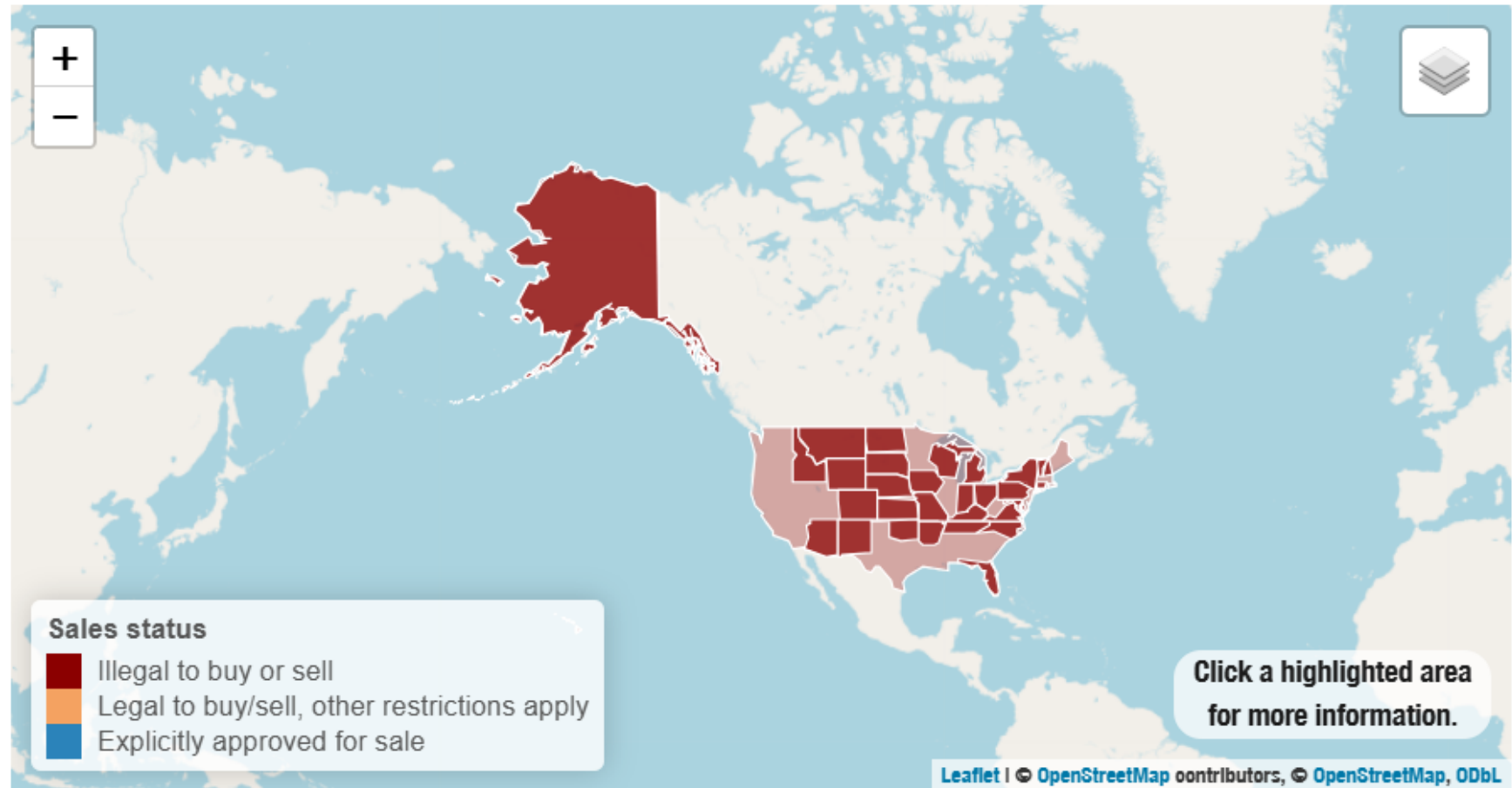
Zebra Mussel

Dreissena polymorpha



You cannot sell this species in the United States.

Where this species is restricted



Responsible Aquatics Guide

See if an aquatic species is legal to buy, sell, or keep in your state.

Before You Trade, Verify Legality

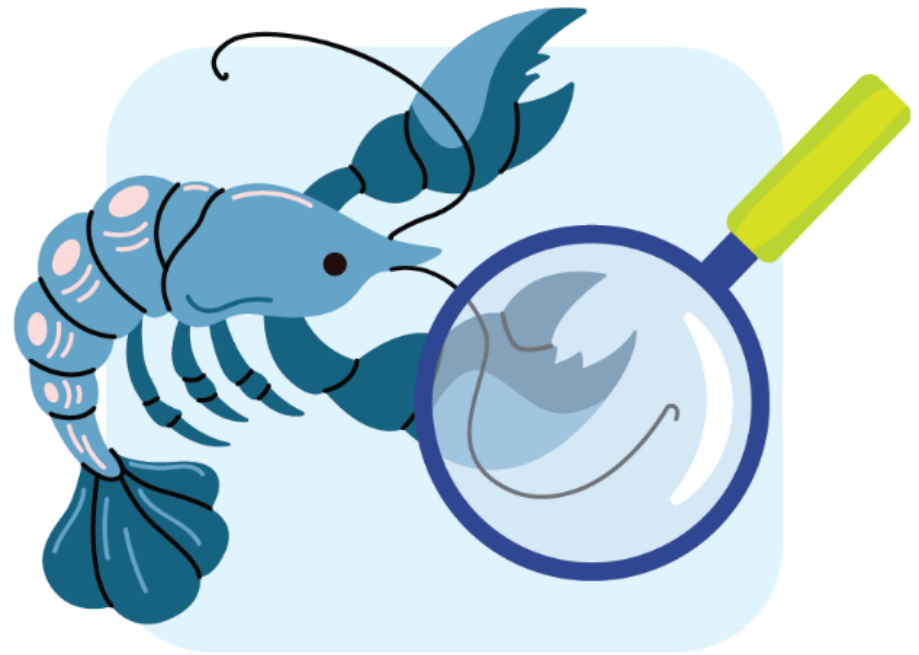
Check state and federal rules before buying or selling aquatic plant or animal species. Use our database to ensure your activities comply with local regulations and help protect freshwater ecosystems.

- Search by **state** to see permitted and prohibited activities.
- Check whether it's legal to **buy, sell, import, transport, or possess** specific species.
- Get **direct links** to official agency rules and registration pages.
- Learn best practices to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

 I'm a seller

 I'm a buyer

  Learn more



Where do you live?

Choose your state:

Ohio

Select your species

How would you like to find your species?

☒ Search ☐ Select from lists

Search species

water lettuce

Matches:

Water Lettuce — *Pistia stratiotes*

Go

Full species list

View the full list of species that are restricted or approved in your state.

View
restricted
species



Viewing restrictions for:

Water Lettuce

Pistia stratiotes



✗ You cannot buy this species in Ohio.

Species information

- **Alternate common/trade names:** Apon-Apon; Laitue d'eau; Lechuguilla de Agua; Pistie; Tropical Duckweed; Water-Lettuce; Waterlettuce
- **Alternate scientific names:** N/A
- **Family:** Araceae

If you are aware of any other common, scientific, or trade names for this species, please contact us at taaja@glc.org.

List of restrictions

Local and federal laws regulating invasive species



Where do you live?

Choose your state:

Minnesota

Select your species

How would you like to find your species?

☒ Search ☐ Select from lists

Search species

clarkii

Matches:

Red Swamp Crayfish — *Procambarus clarkii*

Go

Full species list

View the full list of species that are restricted or approved in your state.

View
restricted
species



Viewing restrictions for:

Red Swamp Crayfish

Procambarus clarkii



✗ You cannot buy this species in Minnesota.

Species information

- **Alternate common/trade names:** Fireball Crayfish; Firecracker Crayfish; Louisiana Crawfish; Mudbug; Orange Ghost Crayfish; Red Swamp Crawfish; Vanilla Crayfish; White Specter Crayfish
- **Alternate scientific names:** *Cambarus clarkii*; *Procambarus clarkia*; *Procambarus clarkua*
- **Family:** Cambaridae

If you are aware of any other common, scientific, or trade names for this species, please contact us at taaja@glc.org.

List of restrictions

Local and federal laws regulating invasive species



Updates from:



Invasive Species in E-commerce Binational Forum

April 29-30, 2026

hosted by
GLDIATR
Great Lakes Detector of
Invasive Aquatics in Trade



GLDIATR E-commerce Binational Forum

- April 29-30
- Day 1 – Jurisdictional programs
- Day 2 – Multijurisdictional programs
- About 75 attendees



Takeaways

- Enforcement is key
- Other ongoing webscraping/API data efforts
- Importance of information sharing
- Facebook marketplace is nebulous with greater challenges
 - Challenges in contacting sellers or the platform, individual profile vs page
- Stopping sellers is more impactful than stopping buyers
- Outreach at a national level will be most effective





What's next for GLDIATR?



Products from Phase III Work

- Shipping Restriction Dashboard
- Factsheets
 - [About GLDIATR](#)
 - [Trends of AIS in E-commerce](#)
- Informational Videos
 - [About GLDIATR](#)
 - [How you can help](#)
- [GLDIATR DIY GitHub repository](#)



Phase III grant (2022-2026)

- Phase III funding will end September 30, 2026
- On the horizon
 - Publishing the dashboard
 - Finishing outreach and analyzing behavior change
 - Final project report



Next tentative phase of funding (FY2026-2028)

- FY26-28 and work will begin in January 2027
- GLDIATR maintenance phase
- Planned activities
 - No outreach!
 - Update target species list
 - Monthly eBay API pulls
 - Attempt to access other platforms' APIs and pull data
 - Publish a manuscript



Thank you!

Questions?

Autumn McGowan

autumn@glc.org

(or ask Theresa)

www.glc.org/work/gldiatr/



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