

NATURAL RESOURCES
TITLE 4. FISH AND FISHERIES
SUBTITLE 2. ORGANIZATION AND AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT
PERTAINING TO FISH AND FISHERIES -- IN GENERAL

Md. NATURAL RESOURCES Code Ann. § 4-205.1 (2014)

§ 4-205.1. Secretary's authority over the possession, importation, or transportation of nonnative aquatic organism

a. (8) "Nuisance organism" means a nonnative aquatic organism that will foreseeably alter and threaten to harm the ecosystem or the abundance and diversity of native or naturalized fish and other organisms.

(i) Penalty. --

(1) In addition to any other penalty provided under law, a person who violates a provision of this section or a regulation adopted under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$ 2,500 or both for each offense, but not exceeding a total of \$ 25,000 for offenses arising out of the same enforcement action.

(2) Each nuisance organism imported or possessed in violation of this section or a regulation adopted under this section constitutes a separate offense.

(3) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, UPON CONVICTION OF A VIOLATION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE JUDGE MAY AWARD A PERSON PROVIDING INFORMATION LEADING TO THE CONVICTION A REWARD TO BE PAID FROM THE FINE PROCEEDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE-HALF OF THE FINES.

(1) A REWARD UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE AWARDED TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT.