



## Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Aquatic Invasive Species Alert

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**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

### Island applesnail

#### *Pomacea insularum*

These snails are a tropical/subtropical species, normally not known to withstand water temperatures below 50°F. This is the most commonly introduced species in the Southeast and is originally thought to be the channeled applesnail. The Island applesnail (IAS) was most likely released by persons in the tropical pet industry or an aquarist. Their egg masses are easily identified. They are pink to almost red in color and are attached to various hard substrates which are above the water line like pilings and any type of significant vegetation. These snails are considered to be among the 100 world's worst invaders according to the Global Invasive Species Database.



**YOU CAN HELP!**  
If you see these egg casings please report the findings to SCDNR. You may also remove and collect the eggs in a zip-loc bag. That will effectively reduce the viability of the eggs to zero and help to eliminate expansion of the population.



### Potential Impacts

Because they eat such a wide range of aquatic plants, IAS are a potential threat to South Carolina aquatic ecosystems. Because invasive infestations can be very dense and cover large areas they can harm the aquatic environment. Snails may destroy native plant species and drastically effect the food web with their ability to out compete native snail species.

*Human health threats are also associated with this species. It may be a vector for disease and parasites such as the lungworm, which may cause the fatal eosinophilic meningoencephalitis disease in humans. Snails also contribute to skin irritations by being intermediate hosts to the associated trematodes.*

***Please do not handle specimens without gloves.***