

**Hemlock Lake Gangetic Eel Response (Survey #: 819010; 819011)**  
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On April 16, 2019, a Finger Lakes Community College Student discovered an unknown species dead on the lake bottom at the northern shore of Hemlock Lake. This finding was reported to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). On April 22, 2019, the same student found six more dead individual fish in the same area. The specimens were sent to the New York State Museum (NYSM), where the Curator of Ichthyology, Jeremy J. Wright, PhD. identified them as Gangetic mud eel (*Monopterus albus*). These eels are non-native to North America and have the potential to disrupt native fish populations.

DEC Fisheries staff responded with sampling efforts to determine if Gangetic mud eels had established populations in Hemlock Lake or connected waters. Between April 18 and May 22, the DEC performed 2.25 hours of electrofishing and 6 net nights of fyke netting in Hemlock Lake and in the upstream Canadice Lake Outlet. No eels were found, and none have been reported in the two years following these sampling efforts. We suspect that these eels quickly perished upon release into Hemlock Lake or were already dead.

