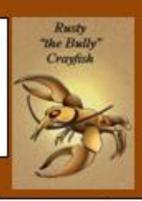


Rusty Crayfish "The Bully"



DESCRIPTION: Brown body crayfish with claws that are larger than some other crayfish. Typically, but not always, it has a rust-colored spot on each side of its shell.

Where are you from? I'm a home-grown invader from the Ohio River Valley, in Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio.

How can we control you? The best way to control me is to be very careful not to spread me to other places. Don't even think of using me as bait and don't take me home as a pet. You also ought to clean your equipment after you fish in waters where I am causing trouble.

What's your problem?

I like to bully the other crayfish species and force them out of the best daytime hiding spots. I'm tougher than a one-eared cat when it comes to defending myself when a fish attacks. In terms of causing trouble, let me tell you some more! Sometimes I mate with native cravfish species, which reduces their numbers. I eat the eggs of native fish, and I can destroy whole beds of aquatic plants, which really messes with species that use them for shelter!

By: DJ Lindsey