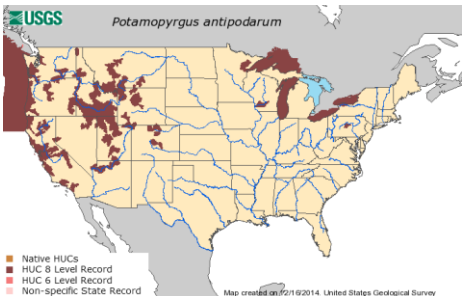
KEEP THE NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL OFF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

The non-native, invasive New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) occurs in freshwater streams in southern California, including the Santa Clara River, streams in the Santa Monica Mountains, central California, and other locations.



NZ mud snail distribution in U.S.

Size comparison with a penny

New Zealand mud snails are very small, easily overlooked, and can reproduce through cloning. A single juvenile, essentially invisible to the unaided eye, transported to Santa Rosa or Santa Cruz Islands could be enough to permanently alter their freshwater communities.

Therefore, **ANY BOOTS, GEAR, OR EQUIPMENT** that have been in freshwater streams on the mainland are considered **CONTAMINATED** and must be decontaminated or replaced with new equipment. The recommended decontamination is at least 48 hours in a -20° C freezer.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

If you have **AQUATIC SAMPLING EQUIPMENT**, make sure it is new or provide proof that it has been decontaminated. Equipment includes: includes water quality sampling equipment, benthic organism sampling equipment, crest gauges, PVC pipe, clipboards, and measuring tapes.

Any aquatic boots, such as waders or aquatic shoes must be new or provide proof of decontamination.

Regular island staff, volunteers, and upland researchers should have boots and personal gear that are **ONLY** used on the islands. This will greatly reduce risk of introductions due to the frequency of transport of gear between the mainland and the islands.