

CRAYFISH FOR THE NATIVE-FISH AQUARIUM  
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Although I have raised tropical fish for several years, I have become interested in native fish only recently. Curiously enough, my habit of placing a few small crayfish in every tank of tropical fish is even more appropriate now that I have native fish.

Crayfish are interesting, easy to find, and make an excellent addition to the aquarium. Like miniature architects, crayfish will move pebbles and plants to make themselves an acceptable home. They shed their shells one or twice a year and get into the occasional skirmish with each other.

They can be found almost anyplace where you are catching minnows or sunfish. A small net or even two paper cups are all you need to capture a few. The smaller the better if you are putting them in tanks with fish. One inch or less from head to tail is the best. As they will try and grab any fins that happen to get close, they are best for tanks where fish are in the upper water layers.

Crayfish are scavengers, so I use them to eat any food that the fish miss. They also will weed out any sick or feeble fish by eating them.

Crayfish are interesting and useful additions to the native-fish aquarium, but should not be placed in tanks with bottom-feeders or spawning fish.

Check your tanks. I'm sure you'll find some that will benefit from the addition of a crayfish or two.