

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

AMERICAN BULLFROGS

(Lithobates catesbeiana)

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

www.reportinvasives.ca

NATIVE RANGE

American Bullfrogs are native to eastern North America.

DESCRIPTION

Adult American Bullfrogs...

- Are olive to bright green on back and sides, and a creamy white on belly which is sometimes mottled with grey or dark markings
- Can be 18-20 cm long from nose to the end of the body (not including the legs)
- Lack raised skin folds along sides, called dorso-lateral folds (found in look-alike species, the Green Frog)
- Have a skin fold following the shape of the eardrum
- Have a bright yellow throat during the breeding season (sexually mature males)



Photo Credit © B kimmel , Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY-SA-4.0

***Visit the following links for egg, larvae and adult Bullfrog identification:**

Adults

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frogwatch/publications/docs/posters/VancouverIslandFrogs-IDGuide.pdf>

Eggs

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frogwatch/publications/docs/keys/PictorialAquaticEggKey6-logos.pdf>

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

American Bullfrogs were originally introduced into B.C. by humans wanting to farm them for their meaty legs. They were also imported by aquatic garden supply companies for stocking backyard ponds. Populations can increase rapidly as females are able to lay up to 20,000 eggs per year. American Bullfrog dispersal is aided by their abilities to migrate over land, feed on a wide range of prey, thrive in human disturbed habitats, and the tendency for humans to catch and release them into new habitats.

PRIMARY IMPACT:

American Bullfrogs prey on native frogs and other native species. They may also compete with native frogs for food and habitat.

DID YOU KNOW?

Adult Bullfrogs have been found to eat garter snakes.

(over)

AMERICAN BULLFROGS (*Lithobates catesbeiana*)

HABITAT

American Bullfrogs prefer warm, weedy ponds and lakes, but can also be found in ditches and slow moving streams. They do well in human disturbed habitats in B.C.

ARE THEY HERE YET?

Yes. American Bullfrogs have established populations on Vancouver Island between Victoria to Campbell River, west to Port Alberni, as well as on some Gulf Islands and the Lower Mainland. The one known population in the Okanagan has been eradicated, but one newly introduced population was detected in the Kootenay region in 2015.

LOOKALIKES

American Bullfrogs can be difficult to distinguish from other frog and toad species in B.C. specifically:

- Western Toad (*Bufo boreas*) - Native to B.C.
- Pacific Tree Frog or Pacific Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris regilla*) - Native to B.C.
- Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*) - Native to B.C.
- Green Frog (*Rana clamitans*) – Not Native to B.C.

Adults

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Eggs

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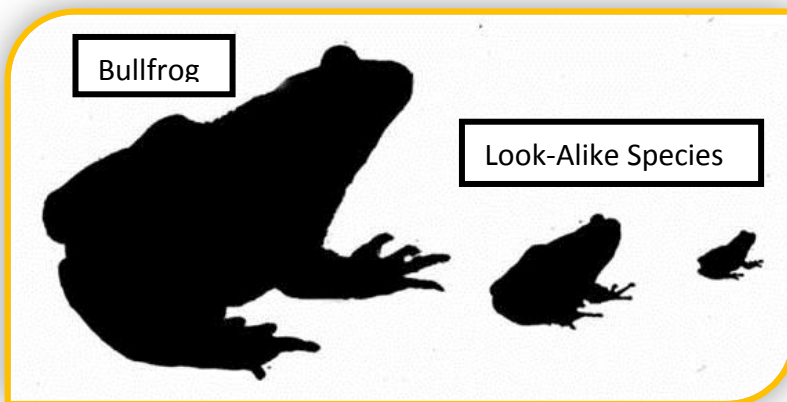


Photo Credit: N. McMinn



Photo Credit: Kay Taylor

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WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND ONE?

Trap it if possible, and have it exterminated once clear identification is made by a professional.

For further information contact the provincial Frog Watch program

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frogwatch/>



HOW CAN WE STOP THEM?

- Do not possess, breed, ship or release American Bullfrogs in B.C.
- Do not collect and/or transfer tadpoles of any kind
- Create an attractive environment in your pond for native frog species to live in
- Do not stock ponds with purchased aquarium frog species
- Raise awareness to avoid spread into B.C.