

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

GOLDFISH

(*Carassius auratus*)



NATIVE RANGE

Goldfish are native to eastern Asia, including parts of China, Hong Kong, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

DESCRIPTION

Goldfish...

- Have a deep-elongated body, with a large head
- and eyes, and a small mouth
- Have a long dorsal (back) fin, which is longer than the head
- Have large scales on body, but lack scales on head
- Can range in colour from gold to olive-green to white
- Are on average 15-20 cm long and weigh 100-300 grams when mature adults

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Goldfish...

- Have been reported to compete with native fish species for food in areas where they have been introduced
- Have shown to prey on native fish species in areas where they have been introduced
- Can disturb sediment while feeding, which increases water turbidity and may harm aquatic plants

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

Goldfish are being intentionally released into B.C. waterbodies by pet owners and escaping from outdoor ponds and aquariums. This species is an effective invader for its abilities to rapidly reproduce, withstand temperature and oxygen level changes, and consume an omnivorous diet. Once introduced, they can establish in local ponds and streams, and rapidly spread to surrounding water bodies.

HABITAT

Preferred habitats of Goldfish include streams and pools, ditches, and ponds. They tend towards areas where there is submerged aquatic vegetation. Goldfish can tolerate a wide range of temperatures and oxygen levels, and are unaffected by ice cover.

PRIMARY IMPACT:

Compete with and feed on native fish species.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

www.reportinvasives.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

Goldfish are thought to be the first foreign fish species introduced to North America, dating back to the 17th century.

GOLDFISH (*Carassius auratus*)



Known approximate location of Goldfish in B.C.
January 2016



ARE THEY HERE YET?

Yes. Every year Goldfish are released into provincial waters. Wild self-sustaining populations of goldfish have established in the lower mainland, southern Interior and southern Vancouver Island. The largest distribution of Goldfish exists in the lower mainland.

LOOK-ALIKES

Goldfish are a part of the Family Cyprinidae (ex. minnows and carps) and therefore may be confused with various native and non-native species that may occur in B.C.

Goldfish are distinguished from carp species by their lack of barbels (whisker like projections), and distinguished from all other species of Cyprinidae by their dorsal (back) fin being longer than their head. A subtle distinguishing feature of Goldfish is the presence of a hard and serrated spine near the front end of the dorsal and anal fins. No other Cyprinidae has this serrated spine feature.

HOW CAN WE STOP THEM?

- Do not possess, breed, ship or release Goldfish in B.C.
- Never use live fish as bait
- Do not release aquarium fish into the wild
- Raise awareness to avoid spread into B.C. freshwaters



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND ONE?

Report Goldfish, or any other invasive species via the **Report Invasives phone app**, or via the **webform** available on the B.C. Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group website:

www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org

