

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

TENCH

(*Tinca tinca*)

NATIVE RANGE

Tench are native to most of Europe and parts of western Asia

DESCRIPTION

Tench...

- Have an orange-red iris on eyes
- Have a robust body, covered with small embedded scales
- Have dark fins with rounded margins
- Do not have a forked tail
- Have one single barbell (whisker-like projection) at each corner of mouth
- Can be olive- green to almost black in colour, blending to yellow-gold along the side and belly
- Are typically 20-25 cm in length
- Can be gold to red in colour with black or red spots if artificially bred (often called Golden Tench)

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

Tench have spread into B.C. from Washington State through the Columbia River. Tench are highly adaptive to B.C. waters as they can survive in low oxygen levels and at temperatures between 0-24 °C. Populations of Tench can grow quickly as females produce between 300,000-900,000 eggs during a single spawning season. They have been found to reproduce at temperatures as low as 10-16 °C. The omnivorous diet of Tench and their tolerance to low temperatures allows this species to spread to a variety of habitat types.

HABITAT

Tench are commonly found in slow-moving water with vegetation and mud substrate.

They can withstand low temperatures and varied oxygen levels. During winter months, Tench bury under mud to wait out the cold.



PROHIBITED IN BC

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

www.reportinvasives.ca



PRIMARY IMPACT:

Tench behaviour suggests they could compete with native sport fish and minnow species for food.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tench are delicious and can be a replacement in recipes that call for carp.

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WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FIND ONE?

Report Tench, 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

PROHIBITED IN BC

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Tench...

- Are known carriers of parasites that are harmful to freshwater fish
- Can affect water clarity by their feeding behaviour that stirs up bottom sediments
- Have shown to increase algal growth in other areas where they have been introduced through selective predation on species that feed on algae
- Have shown to compete for food with native fish species in the Great Lakes where they are introduced, and therefore may compete with native fish in B.C.
- Could cause ecological impacts due to predation on and competition with native species in B.C.

ARE THEY HERE YET?

Yes. In B.C., Tench are in Osoyoos, Christina, Skaha, and Okanagan lakes. They have also been found in reservoirs of the Pend d'Orielle system near Trail. Currently within these regions, populations of Tench only appear to persist in low numbers.

LOOKALIKES

Tench can resemble other members of the carp and minnow family (Cyprinidae), but only Tench have a small single barbell (whisker-like projection) at each two corners of the mouth.

HOW CAN WE STOP THEM?

- Do not possess, breed, release, sell or transport live Tench in B.C. (**It is illegal!**)
- Be aware of the species that you buy for aquariums, as it could be PROHIBITED in B.C.
- Raise awareness to avoid the spread of this species into B.C. waters

