



**CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY**

Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

Rosy red minnow (*Pimephales promelas*)

ABOUT

Rosy red minnows, also known as Red minnows, are a breed of Fathead minnow common sold in the pet/aquarium trade. Primary pathways of introduction into natural waters is through the intentional release of unwanted pets or the use of live bait. The use of live bait is prohibited in BC.

LEGAL STATUS

Rosy red minnow is an invasive species in B.C. and is included on the Provincial Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) list.

DISTRIBUTION IN B.C.

Rosy red minnows have a sporadic distribution around B.C. Since 1978, they have been found in One Island Lake Provincial Park, in Millburn Lake, in ponds near Prince George and Kelowna, and in several artificial ponds in Metro Vancouver. It is unknown whether they have been able to spread from these water bodies, but there is evidence that they are able to breed and survive the winter.



IDENTIFICATION



Rosy red minnows grow to 2-6 cm long. Their sides and bellies are silver, while their backs, tails, and head are orange-red or pink in colour. They have large eyes with a metallic iris. Their fins are translucent. You may see them congregating in shallow waters in large schools.

ECOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Habitat: Rosy red minnows are a hardy fish, able to survive in low-oxygen waters and able to breed when water temperatures are between 16-29°C. In their native range, Fathead minnows can occupy a wide variety of waterways, including streams, ponds, and shallow lakes. They prefer slow-moving, high-turbidity water that warms up during the day.

Reproduction: Female fish lay up to 400 eggs along a log or other flat surface with each spawning event. The male who fertilized these eggs will guard them until they hatch 4-5 days later.

IMPACTS

Impacts of this species are largely unknown and because of its limited distribution in BC is it hard to predict the potential impacts if distribution and density were to increase. It is a tolerant species capable of surviving in a wide range of environmental conditions and occupies a similar ecological niche to other small freshwater fish native to B.C., therefore has the potential to disrupt food webs and outcompete native species for food and habitat. In northern Europe, introductions have resulted in the spread of enteric red-mouth disease in trout and other salmonids.



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Prevention: **Don't Let it Loose! NEVER** release pet fish into ponds, lakes, or other waterways, including artificial ponds. If you are unable to care for your fish, contact a pet store or the BCSPCA as they may be able to help you rehome it responsibly.



Reporting: Please report any sightings in B.C. using the Report-Invasives B.C. apps at www.reportinvasives.ca.

REFERENCES/INFORMATIVE LINKS

- <http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/efauna/Atlas/Atlas.aspx?sciname=Pimephales%20promelas>
- <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=621>
- https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?place_id=7085&subview=grid&taxon_id=109536

Additional Contact Info



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada

