

RUDD

Invades Ontario Waters



**Keep All Our
Lakes Great!**

You can stop invading species
www.invadingspecies.com

What is Rudd?

Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*) is a European member of the minnow family that has been introduced to many parts of North America. Rudd found in Ontario waters probably came from the United States where the species is commonly used as a baitfish. Bait bucket dumping is believed to be the primary way in which rudd has spread. It is illegal to import baitfish into Ontario.

Rudd is a large, deep bodied minnow that can grow to a length of 35 cm (14 inches) and weight of approximately 1.8 kg (2.5-3 pounds). It is very similar in appearance to our native golden shiner, but rudd has blood-red fins (golden shiner's are yellow) and a fully scaled belly. See diagram for further details.

Female rudd can lay between 100,000 to over 200,000 eggs per year. The eggs are usually laid close to shore in shallow waters with submerged vegetation and temperatures between 14°-20°C. The eggs hatch in 7-14 days depending on water temperature.

Where is it found?

In Ontario, rudd was first found in the St. Lawrence River in 1990. It was found at several locations in the river during the 1990s, and in 1997 it was discovered in western Lake Ontario and eastern Lake Erie. In 2005, the first inland discovery of rudd was made in Wilcox Lake, the headwaters of the East Humber River watershed.

Rudd inhabits quiet, heavily vegetated waters but can also live in a wide range of environmental conditions.

What does it eat?

Adult rudd feed mainly on aquatic vegetation and insects. In lab experiments, they consumed up to 40% of their body weight per day. When they are young, rudd feed on algae, zooplankton, small invertebrates, and occasionally small fish.



Photo: Royal Ontario Museum

What are the impacts?

The impacts of rudd on native species are not yet fully known. Rudd may compete with native fish for food and habitat resources. Its large appetite for aquatic vegetation can potentially degrade the spawning and nursery habitats of native fish like Northern pike, muskellunge and yellow perch. Since rudd can hybridize with native golden shiner, there is a potential for the unique genetics of native golden shiner to be lost.

You can help!

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.A.H.) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) have set up a toll-free **Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711** and website www.invadingspecies.com for you to obtain information on and report sightings of rudd and other invading species.

- **Report sightings.** If you find rudd in a new area, freeze it or preserve it in rubbing alcohol, then call the Invading Species Hotline or contact your local MNR Office to report your finding and confirm your specimen as rudd.
- **Get involved.** Participate in one of our many community based monitoring programs to detect and prevent the spread of invading species.
- **Find out more.** Contact the **Invading Species Hotline 1-800-563-7711** or visit www.invadingspecies.com



Boaters and Anglers – You can help!

Although rudd has become established in some parts of the Great Lakes, it is extremely important to prevent its spread to inland waters and other areas. To protect your lake and prevent the spread of rudd and other invading species, please take the following precautions before leaving a water body and entering another:

- Never use rudd as bait! The release of rudd through bait bucket dumping is considered the primary mechanism by which the species has gained access to open waters.
- Do not release live bait! Empty your bait bucket on dry land, or freeze or salt the bait for later use. It is illegal to release live baitfish from one water body into another.
- Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment – remove all plants, animals and mud, and dispose of them on dry land or in the garbage.
- Drain water from motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land.
- Remove organisms you can't see on your boat, trailer and equipment by:
 - ◆ Rinsing them with hot water (>40°C), or
 - ◆ Spraying with high pressure water (250 p.s.i.), or
 - ◆ Drying them in the sun for at least 5 days.
- For more information, contact the **Invading Species Hotline** at **1-800-563-7711** or visit **www.invadingspecies.com**

