

Rudd

Scardinius erythrophthalmus

Description

Introduced to the United States in early 1900s as a food and game species; Arkansas fish farmers began culturing for bait industry in early 1980s.

Identification

Up to 19 inches; golden bronze body, white belly; bright red-orange fins; protruding lower jaw; iris of eye has a red spot above the pupil.

Habitat

Native to Europe and Central Asia. Prefer still, surface waters of shallow weedy shorelines in lakes, river backwaters, canals; seldom moves to open water.

Reproduction

Impact



Can hybridize with golden shiners; this can cause genetic problems in wild shiner populations. Feeds heavily on aquatic plants, releasing nutrients that lower water quality; puts vulnerable native plant communities at risk; and in areas with rudd populations, native fish spawning is less successful.

Similar

Native golden shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*) has no scales on keel while the common rudd has a scaled keel along belly, from pelvic to anal fins.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

No known biological control methods. Fine-mesh monofilament gill nets have been used to control rudd in New Zealand but elimination was not achievable. Can be control using general use piscicides like antimycin A or rotenone. Increasing CO₂ concentrations with sedate fish and can be a potential method of harvesting fish for removal.

Credits

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