

Goldfish Fact Sheet

Objective

To provide background, prevention strategies and options for removal of goldfish (non-native



Minnesota regulated species). This also may apply to aquarium fish and Koi.

Native Range

Goldfish: Eastern Asia, parts of Europe.

Biology

Goldfish, common carp and koi are a few examples of ornamental or aquarium fish that people own as pets. Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) are described as a freshwater fish in the carp family Cyprinidae and are closely related to the prussian carp (*Carassius gibelio*) and crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*). The typical length of a goldfish is between 15-20 cm, although can reach up to 59 cm in different aquatic habitats. Weight varies between 100g- 300g with a maximum of 3.0 kg (USGS). Lifespan is typically 6-7 years.

Habitat

Goldfish are highly tolerant of turbid waters, temperature fluctuations and low levels of dissolved oxygen. Typical habitat includes streams and pools with submerged vegetation.

Impacts

Large populations can outcompete native fishes and in some instances disrupt sport fisheries. Given goldfish benthic feeding strategies they can increase turbidity and can be host for disease (*ie.* Koi herpesvirus [KHV] and carp edema virus [CEV])

that can contribute to large die-offs in many carp groups, resulting in an unhealthy fish population.

Prevention

Goldfish and koi are inadvertently introduced into waters of the state through pet and water garden trades. Prevention tips for those that maintain outside water gardens or ponds with ornamental fish should build ponds away from other waters and areas prone to flooding to limit the chance of overland introduction

Management

- Basin manipulation (drawdown etc.)
- Mechanical harvest (netting and commercial harvest)
- Pesticide (Piscicide such as Rotenone)
- Predator fish stocking

Permits

It is illegal to place unwanted fish in bodies of water therefore



release is not a humane nor a legal option, as most aquarium fish are from tropical or subtropical regions may not survive their new environment.

Based on the management options you chose, type of water body, water body characteristics will determine the type of MN DNR permit is required. Work with your area fisheries and hydrology staff to ensure the correct protocols/ permitting are followed.

Where can I surrender my pet?

- Habitatitude
- Animal surrender events
- Humane society
- Local pet shelters