

Rudd

Scardinius erythrophthalmus



What is it and Why is it a Problem?

Rudd is a small fish that prefers slow-moving waters with lots of vegetation but will also tolerate poor water quality, thus making it easy to invade disturbed areas. They feed on aquatic plants and insects as adults, and algae, insects, snails and worms as young, making them compete with native fish species for these food sources and habitat. In fact, adult Rudd eat so much aquatic vegetation along shorelands that they are capable of degrading spawning and nursery grounds for native species of fish, such as Northern Pike, Yellow Perch and Muskellunge. In addition, they are capable of breeding with a native species of baitfish, called the Golden Shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*), to create invasive hybrid offspring, thus reducing the genetic diversity of native fish populations. Although Rudd has not yet been detected in The Land Between, it has been confirmed in surrounding Great Lakes and thus may potentially spread to the region if careful precautions are not taken.



How Can it be Managed?

- Help prevent the spread of this invasive species to The Land Between by reporting sightings of any invasive species online through [EDDMapS Ontario](#), a web-based mapping system which also has an app, or through the [Invasive Species in Ontario](#) project on [iNaturalist.org](#).
- Inspect your boat, trailer and fishing gear before leaving a fishing spot and before heading to a new fishing spot to remove any mud, plant fragments and animals. Dispose of any plant and animal matter in the garbage. Refer to the [OMNRF's Boater's Action Plan](#) for more information on cleaning your boat and gear.
- Release water from your motor, live well, bilge and transom wells once on land.
- Do not release aquarium or pond contents into water bodies. Oftentimes invasive aquatic animals end up reaching water bodies when people dispose of them in lakes and rivers.



What Does it Look Like?

- For a minnow, it is quite large (10 - 25 cm long, and can reach up to 38.5 cm long)
- Mouth is small and upturned
- May look similar to Golden Shiners but can be distinguished by its bright red fins (Golden Shiners have yellow-green fins), fully scaled belly (Golden Shiners do not have scales on their belly), and red colouration in its eyes (Golden Shiners have yellow-green colouration)

References

[Great Lakes Nonindigenous Species Information System](#), produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program](#), developed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).