

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

AMERICAN BULLFROG

(*Lithobates catesbeianus*)



Photo credit: © B kimmel, Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY-SA-4.0

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ANIMAL?

DESCRIPTION

- Olive to bright green on back and sides, and creamy white on belly which is sometimes mottled with grey or dark markings.
- Can be 18-20 cm long and weigh up to 800 g.
- Lack raised skin folds along sides, called dorso-lateral folds (which are found in look-alike species, the green frog).
- Have a skin fold following the shape of the eardrum.
- Have prominent eardrums, the size is much larger than the eye in males and about the same size as the eye in females.
- Have a bright yellow throat during the breeding season (sexually mature males).

PRIMARY THREAT:

American Bullfrogs prey on native frogs and other native species. They may also compete with native frogs for food and habitat.

SPREAD

American Bullfrogs were originally introduced to B.C. for use as a food item; they were farmed for their meaty legs. They were also imported by aquatic garden supply companies for stocking backyard ponds.

Populations of American Bullfrog can increase rapidly as females can lay up to 20,000 eggs per year. Dispersal is aided by their abilities to migrate over land, feed on a wide range of prey, thrive in human disturbed habitats, and the tendency for humans to catch and release them into new habitats.

American Bullfrogs require permanent waterbodies to complete their life cycle. They prefer warm, weedy ponds and lakes, but can also be found in ditches and slow-moving streams. They do well in human-disturbed habitats in B.C.

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species>

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species



Female

Male

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DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

American Bullfrogs are native to eastern North America. In B.C., they have established populations on Vancouver Island, from Victoria to Campbell River and west to Port Alberni, on some Gulf Islands, and in the Lower Mainland. Bullfrogs were detected in the Kootenay region in 2015 where control efforts are ongoing. Mitigation efforts in the south Okanagan have been successful in controlling the population, with monitoring and local stewardship ongoing.

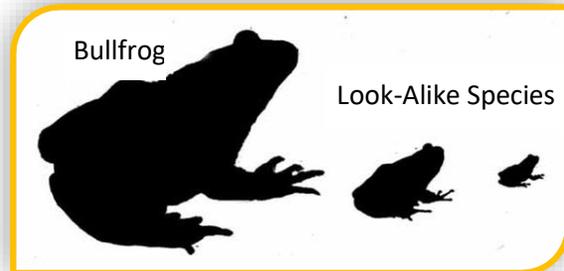


Photo Credit: N. McMinn

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www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

LOOK-ALIKES:

American Bullfrogs can be difficult to distinguish from other frog and toad species in B.C. specifically:

- Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) - Native to B.C.
- Pacific Treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*) - Native to B.C.
- Northern Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*) - Native to B.C.
- Green Frog (*Rana clamitans*) – Not Native to B.C.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Do not possess, breed, ship or release American Bullfrogs in B.C.
- Do not collect and/or transfer tadpoles of any kind.
- Create an attractive environment in your pond for native frog species.
- Do not stock ponds with purchased aquarium frog species.
- Raise awareness to avoid spread into B.C. freshwaters.

DID YOU KNOW?

Adult Bullfrogs have been known to eat garter snakes.



Photo Credit: Kay Taylor

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