

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

ROSY RED MINNOW

(Pimephales promelas)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ANIMAL?

DESCRIPTION

Rosy Red Minnow...

- Are a small fish with a slender body; they reach between 2-6 cm in length with males typically being larger than females.
- Range in colour from golden to pink to an orange-red and they have silver sides and bellies.
- Have eyes with metallic irises that are placed on the sides of a short, flattened head.
- Have translucent fins.



Image credit: Joseph Stansbury Rosin, Wikimedia Commons (CC0)

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

PRIMARY THREAT:

Rosy Red Minnows may compete with native species for food and habitat resulting in negative ecological effects.

SPREAD

Rosy Red Minnows have spread by releasing aquarium and/or bait fish into the wild. In B.C., Rosy Red Minnows can successfully breed in the wild. Females lay up to 400 eggs and males will guard the eggs for four or five days until they hatch. This species is very hardy; it is known to tolerate a wide range of water temperatures and pH levels allowing survival in challenging environments. Their ability to spread from established sites is unknown.

Rosy Red Minnows have been found in a variety of habitats including ponds, shallow lakes, and streams. They thrive in turbid (cloudy) waters that absorb lots of warmth from the sun.



Image credit: Nikolaus Gantner, WLRs (CC-BY-NC)

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



ROSY RED MINNOW (*Pimephales promelas*)



Image credit: Mike Durkalec, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species



Image credit: Gavin Hanke, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)

DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

Rosy Red Minnows are an aquarium variety of Fathead Minnows. Fathead Minnows are native to North America, from Canada (Alberta and Northwest Territories in the west/north to Quebec and New Brunswick in the east) south to Northern Mexico.

Current range in B.C. is comprised of several disjunct locations including in the northeast (south of Dawson Creek), near Quesnel and Prince George, in Kelowna, in the Fraser Valley, in Metro Vancouver, and on Vancouver Island (near Duncan).

Brassy Minnow
(*Hybognathus hankinsoni*)



Fathead Minnow
(*Pimephales promelas*)



Image credit: Becky Cudmore and Nicolas Mandrak. 2018. The Baitfish primer. DFO.

LOOK-ALIKES:

Rosy Red Minnows are not likely to be confused with other species due to their colour and shape, although, they are a similar shape to Brassy Minnows, which are native to B.C. Brassy Minnows have a brassy, yellow coloured body (1) with a dusky stripe that is darker on the rear half of the body (2). Fathead Minnows are the same species as Rosy Red Minnows, but they differ in colouration (green-brown back and yellow sides) and have a dark stripe along the side of the body. They have crowded scales between head and dorsal fin (1), a blunt snout with slanted mouth (2), and a short head, flat on top (3).

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Learn to identify Rosy Red Minnow.
- Do not possess, breed, ship, or release Rosy Red Minnow in B.C.
- Never use live fish as bait.
- Do not release aquarium fish into the wild.
- Do not flush aquarium fish down the toilet – dead or alive.
- Raise awareness to avoid spread into B.C. waters.

DID YOU KNOW?

Male Rosy Red Minnows will prepare the surface of logs, rocks, or other substrate for egg-laying by rubbing against it to remove algae or debris prior to the female laying eggs and attaching them to the substrate.

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



Image credit: Mike Durkalec, iNaturalist (CC-BY-NC)

