

Invasive fish of Queensland



Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*)



Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)



Black pacu (*Piaractus brachipomus*)



Alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) (Image courtesy of WikiCommons)

The introduction of invasive fish into Queensland's natural waterways and wetlands can significantly affect native fish biodiversity and abundance. Impacts include:

- direct competition for food and space
- predation
- habitat alteration
- introduction and spread of exotic diseases and parasites.

Once established in the environment, invasive fish are almost impossible to eradicate.

In Queensland it is illegal to sell prohibited, restricted and non-native invasive fish on Gumtree, eBay, Facebook or any marketplace.

Legislation requirements

In Queensland, invasive fish are listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and the *Biosecurity Regulation 2016* as:

- restricted noxious fish
- prohibited noxious fish
- non-native invasive ornamental fish.

Additional species may be listed by a local government under local laws.



**Queensland
Government**

What this means for you

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive fish in their possession or under their control.

It is illegal to import, keep, sell, move, distribute or have in your possession any invasive fish in Queensland.

Within 24 hours, you are required to report sightings to Biosecurity Queensland of any prohibited noxious fish and these restricted noxious fish:

- alligator gar
- black pacu
- marbled lungfish
- spotted gar.

You must not feed the following restricted noxious fish and if caught (e.g. while fishing), you must humanly kill and dispose of these restricted noxious fish (by burial above the high-water mark or placed in a bin) as soon as practical:

- carp
- Chinese weatherfish
- climbing perch
- gambusia
- giant cichlid
- tilapia.

The only exception to any of these requirements is if a fish is kept under a restricted or prohibited matter permit granted under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* for specific uses such as scientific research, public display aquaria and during fishing competitions (e.g. to allow the collection and weighing of carp and tilapia caught during an event).

What is Biosecurity Queensland doing?

Biosecurity Queensland is managing invasive fish by:

- increasing public awareness and everyone's general biosecurity obligations
- implementing a surveillance program
- managing existing infestations utilising various control strategies
- responding to new incursions
- working with state and commonwealth governments to develop a national approach to identifying and legislating invasive fish
- supporting scientific research and control measures.

Restricted noxious fish

You must comply with the fish's restriction category requirements; each fish may have different requirements.

- Alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*)
- Black pacu (*Piaractus brachypomus*)
- Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)
- Chinese weatherfish, weatherloach (*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*)

- Climbing perch (*Anabas testudineus*)
- Gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*)
- Giant cichlid, yellow belly cichlid (*Boulengerochromis microlepis*)
- Marbled lungfish (*Protopterus aethiopicus*)
- Spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*)
- Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus* and *Tilapia mariae*)

Prohibited noxious fish

You must not have any dealings whatsoever with these fish, you must not bring these fish into Queensland or keep these fish in your possession or under your control.

- Aba aba (*Gymnarchus niloticus*)
- Adriatic sturgeon (*Acipenser naccarii*)
- African butter catfish (*Schilbe mystus*)
- African lungfish (*Protopterus annectens*)
- African pike (*Hepsetus odoe*)
- African pike-characin, tubenose poacher, fin eater (fish of the subfamily *Ichthyborinae*)
- Alfaro huberi (*Alfaro huberi*)
- American gar, alligator gar, armoured gar (*Atractosteus* spp. and *Lepisosteus* spp.) other than *Atractosteus spatula* and *Lepisosteus oculatus*
- Amur sturgeon (*Acipenser schrenckii*)
- Angler catfish (*Chaca bankanensis*)
- Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*)
- Baikal sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii baicalensis*)
- Banded jewelfish (*Hemichromis fasciatus*)
- Banded sunfish, spotted sunfish (family *Centrarchidae*)
- Barred tail pearlfish (*Leptolebias minimus*)
- Beluga (*Huso huso*)
- Bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*)
- Bigmouth sleeper (*Gobiomorus dormitor*)
- Bluegill (*Lepomis* spp.)
- Bottlenose, cornish jack (*Mormyrops anguilloides*)
- Bowfin (*Amia calva*)
- Brook stickleback (*Culaea inconstans*)
- Burmensis frogmouth catfish (*Chaca burmensis*)
- Catla (*Catla catla*)
- Chameleon goby, striped goby (*Tridentiger trigonocephalus*)
- Channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)
- Chinese sturgeon (*Acipenser sinensis*)
- Chinese swordfish (*Psephurus gladius*)
- Copper mahseer (*Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*)
- Discus ray (*Paratrygon aiereba*)
- Electric catfish (*Malapterurus* spp.)
- Electric eel (*Electrophorus electricus*)
- European catfish, wels catfish (*Silurus* spp.)
- European sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*)
- Fat sleeper (*Dormitator maculatus*)
- Flatnose catfish, dwarf giraffe catfish (*Anaspidoglanis macrostomus*)
- Forktail lates (*Lates microlepis*)
- Fourspine stickleback (*Apeltes quadracus*)
- Freshwater minnow (*Zacco platypus*)
- Fringebarbel sturgeon (*Acipenser nudiventris*)
- Frogmouth catfish, squarehead catfish (*Chaca chaca*)

- *Gambusia*, mosquito fish (*Gambusia* spp.) other than *Gambusia holbrooki*
- Giant barb (*Catlocarpio siamensis*)
- Giant bully (*Gobiomorphus gobioides*)
- Gilled lungfish (*Protopterus amphibius*)
- Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)
- Green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)
- Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus destotoi*)
- Hypseleotris tohizonae (*Hypseleotris tohizonae*)
- Japanese sturgeon (*Acipenser multiscutatus*)
- Knife-edged livebearer (*Alfaro cultratus*)
- Lake sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*)
- Largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)
- Leptolebias aureoguttatus (*Leptolebias aureoguttatus*)
- Marbled pearlfish (*Leptolebias marmoratus*)
- Marble goby (*Oxyeleotris marmorata*)
- Mekong giant catfish (*Pangasianodon gigas*)
- Mississippi paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*)
- Mrigal (*Cirrhinus cirrhosus*)
- Nile perch (*Lates niloticus*)
- Ninespine stickleback (*Pungitius pungitius*)
- Opal pearlfish (*Leptolebias opalescens*)
- Orange-fin labeo (*Labeo calbasu*)
- *Oxyeleotris siamensis* (*Oxyeleotris siamensis*)
- *Oxyeleotris urophthalmoides* (*Oxyeleotris urophthalmoides*)
- *Oxyeleotris urophthalmus* (*Oxyeleotris urophthalmus*)
- Pacific fat sleeper (*Dormitator latifrons*)
- Pacific sleeper (*Gobiomorus maculatus*)
- *Pangasius conchophilus* (*Pangasius conchophilus*)
- *Pangasius elongatus* (*Pangasius elongatus*)
- *Pangasius krempfi* (*Pangasius krempfi*)
- *Pangasius kunyit* (*Pangasius kunyit*)
- *Pangasius macronema* (*Pangasius macronema*)
- *Pangasius nasutus* (*Pangasius nasutus*)
- *Pangasius nieuwenhuisii* (*Pangasius nieuwenhuisii*)
- Parasitic catfish, pencil catfish, candiru catfish (family *Trichomycteridae*)
- Persian sturgeon (*Acipenser persicus*)
- Pike characin (*Acestrorhynchus microlepis*)
- Pike cichlid (*Crenicichla* spp.)
- Pike minnow, pike killifish (*Belonesox belizanus*)
- Pikes (*Esox* spp.)
- Pink, slender, greenwoods, mortimers, cunean and green happy (*Sargochromis* spp.)
- Piranhas, pacus (fish of the subfamily *Serrasalminae*) other than *Metynnis* spp., *Myloplus rubripinnis*, *Myloplus asterias*, *Myloplus planquettei* and *Piaractus brachypomus*)
- Purpleface largemouth (*Serranochromis* spp.)
- Pygmy sunfish (*Elassoma* spp.)
- Redfin bully (*Gobiomorphus huttoni*)
- Red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*)
- Reedfish (*Erpetoichthys calabaricus*)
- Ripsaw catfish, black doras, black shielded catfish (*Oxydoras* spp.)
- River carp, deccan, high backed, jungha, putitor, Thai mahseer (*Tor* spp.)
- Rohu (*Labeo rohita*)
- Russian sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*)
- Sakhalin sturgeon (*Acipenser mikadoi*)
- Sentani gudgeon (*Oxyeleotris heterodon*)
- Shiners (*Notropis* spp.)
- Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)
- Shoulderspot catfish (*Schilbe marmoratus*)
- Siberian sturgeon (*Acipenser baerii baerii*)
- Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)
- Silver catfish (*Schilbe intermedius*)
- Slender lungfish (*Protopterus dolloi*)
- Snakehead (*Channa* spp.)
- Snooks (*Centropomus* spp.)
- South American lungfish (*Lepidosiren paradoxa*)
- Southern redbelly dace (*Phoxinus erythrogaster*)
- Spot pangasius (*Pangasius larnaudii*)
- Starry sturgeon (*Acipenser stellatus*)
- Sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*)
- Stinging catfish (*Heteropneustes fossilis*)
- Tiger catfish (*Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum*)
- Tigerfish (African), pike characin (*Hydrocynus* spp., subfamilies *Hydrocyninae* and *Alestinae*)
- Tigerfish (South American) or trahira (*Erythrinus* spp., *Hoplerethrinus* spp. and *Hoplias* spp.)
- Tilapia (*Sarotherodon* spp., *Oreochromis* spp. and *Tilapia* spp.) other than *Oreochromis mossambicus* and *Tilapia mariae*)
- Tomeurus gracilis (*Tomeurus gracilis*)
- Tropical carp-gudgeon (*Hypseleotris cyprinoides*)
- Twospot lebiasina (*Lebiasina bimaculata*)
- Twospot livebearer (*Heterandria bimaculata*)
- Ubangi shovelnose catfish (*Bagrus ubangensis*)
- Valencia toothcarp (*Valencia hispanica*)
- walking catfish, airbreathing catfish (family *Clariidae*)
- White sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*)
- Yangtze sturgeon (*Acipenser dabryanus*)
- Yellowbelly gudgeon (*Allomogurnda nesolepis*)
- Yellowfin goby (*Acanthogobius flavimanus*)
- Yellowtailed catfish (*Pangasius pangasius*)

Non-native invasive ornamental fish

You must not have any dealings whatsoever with these fish, you must not bring these fish into Queensland or keep these fish in your possession or under your control.

- Balsas catfish (*Ictalurus balsanus*)
- Banded astyanax (*Astyanax fasciatus*)
- Banded tetra (*Astyanax aeneus*)
- Black bullhead (*Ameiurus melas*)
- Black madtom (*Noturus funebris*)
- Black river madtom (*Noturus maydeni*)
- Blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*)
- Brindled madtom (*Noturus miurus*)
- Brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*)
- Brown madtom (*Noturus phaeus*)
- Caddo madtom (*Noturus taylori*)
- Carolina madtom (*Noturus furiosus*)
- Chapala catfish (*Ictalurus ochoterenai*)
- Checkered madtom (*Noturus flavater*)
- Chucky madtom (*Noturus crypticus*)
- Dormitator lebretonis (*Dormitator lebretonis*)
- Elegant madtom (*Noturus elegans*)
- Eyespot ctenopoma (*Ctenopoma ocellatum*)

- Flat bullhead (*Ameiurus platycephalus*)
- Flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*)
- Frecklebelly madtom (*Noturus munitus*)
- Freckled madtom (*Noturus nocturnus*)
- Gangetic climbing perch (*Anabas cobojius*)
- Headwater catfish (*Ictalurus lupus*)
- Helicophagus leptorhynchus (*Helicophagus leptorhynchus*)
- Helicophagus waandersii (*Helicophagus waandersii*)
- Himantura kittipongi (*Himantura kittipongi*)
- Large scaled spiny cheek sleeper (*Eleotris amblyopsis*)
- Least madtom (*Noturus hildebrandi hildebrandi*)
- Lerma catfish (*Ictalurus dugesii*)
- Manyspined ctenopoma (*Ctenopoma multispine*)
- Marbled freshwater whip ray (*Himantura krempfi*)
- Marbled whip ray (*Himantura oxyrhyncha*)
- Margined madtom (*Noturus insignis*)
- Mottled ctenopoma (*Ctenopoma weeksii*)
- Mountain madtom (*Noturus eleutherus*)
- Neosho madtom (*Noturus placidus*)
- Northern madtom (*Noturus stigmosus*)
- Noturus gladiator (*Noturus gladia*)
- Noturus hildebrandi lautus (*Noturus hildebrandi lautus*)
- Ocellated labyrinth fish (*Ctenopoma muriei*)
- Orangefin madtom (*Noturus gilberti*)
- Ouachita madtom (*Noturus lachneri*)
- Ozark madtom (*Noturus albater*)
- Pygmy madtom (*Noturus stanauli*)
- Rio verde catfish (*Ictalurus mexicanus*)
- Roach (*Rutilus rutilus*)
- Saddled madtom (*Noturus fasciatus*)
- Sandwich island sleeper (*Eleotris sandwicensis*)
- Scioto madtom (*Noturus trautmani*)
- Silverbelly ctenopoma (*Ctenopoma argentoventer*)
- Slender madtom (*Noturus exilis*)
- Smoky madtom (*Noturus baileyi*)
- Snail bullhead (*Ameiurus brunneus*)
- Speckled madtom (*Noturus leptacanthus*)
- Spotted bullhead (*Ameiurus serracanthus*)
- Stonecat (*Noturus flavus*)
- Tadpole madtom (*Noturus gyrinus*)
- Tailspot ctenopoma (*Ctenopoma kingsleyae*)
- Tench (*Tinca tinca*)
- Twospot climbing perch (*Ctenopoma nigropannosum*)
- White catfish (*Ameiurus catus*)
- Yaqui catfish (*Ictalurus pricei*)
- Yellow bullhead (*Ameiurus natalis*)
- Yellowfin madtom (*Noturus flavipinnis*)

More information

More information is available from your local government or call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

