

Perch

Perca fluviatilis

Description

Colour: Perch have an olive-green back with tiger stripes running down to a silver-white belly.

Size: Perch grow to a length of 400 mm and weigh up to 2 kg.

Body: Perch are deep-bodied with two large erect dorsal fins, the first having 13 to 17 sharp spines.

Fins: The rear pelvic and anal fins and lower half of the tail are orange-red.

Origin

Native to Europe and the northern hemisphere.

Introduced into New Zealand as a sports fish in the 1870s.

Where are perch found?

Perch prefer slow-flowing or still freshwater environments. Perch have become well established in Otago and Southland, but also occur in many parts of the North Island, especially around Auckland, the Waikato, and coastal lakes south of New Plymouth.

Perch are not thought to be present in the Bay of Plenty region currently.

How do perch spread?

Perch may move to connected waterways.

People may accidentally or deliberately spread fish to other waterways or private ponds.



Why are perch a problem?

Perch are aggressive carnivores eating insect larvae and other fish and may significantly alter native freshwater communities. At high densities small fish predominate and can cause or contribute to toxic algal blooms.

Status as a pest animal in the Bay of Plenty

Eradication/Exclusion Pest Animal (refer to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan).

Rules require land occupiers to destroy all perch in any pond or waterway (eradication will be led and funded by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council).

It is an offence under sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to sell, offer for sale, display, release, move or breed perch in the Bay of Plenty region. Serious penalties are associated with distributing perch in waterways.

How do I get rid of perch?

Removal of fish from waterways is difficult and requires expert advice.

For advice, or to confirm the identity of a fish, call:

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council on 0800 884 880 or email info@boprc.govt.nz
- Your local Department of Conservation office.

For more information contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management Officer.

