

Tench

Tinca tinca

Description

Colour: Tench are generally a dark to light olive green colour.

Size: Tench can reach up to 4 kg in weight in New Zealand.

Body: The fins tend to be thick and fleshy and the body is slimy and covered in small scales.

Head: There is a single small barbel at each corner of the mouth.

Eyes: The eyes are bright orange, and this is their most distinctive characteristic.

Origin

Native to Europe.

Introduced into New Zealand as a sports fish in 1867.

Where are Tench found?

Tench are generally found in slow-flowing freshwater environments. Currently present around Auckland, tench are also found in Northland, the Waikato and Wellington.

In the Bay of Plenty region, Tench are thought to be present in Lake McLaren and the surrounding waterways.

How do Tench spread?

Tench may move to connected waterways.

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



Tench (Tinca tinca)
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Why are Tench a problem?

Tench are carnivorous feeding on insect larvae, crustaceans and molluscs and may directly compete with trout and native fish for food resources.

Status as a pest animal in the Bay of Plenty

Containment Pest Animal (refer to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan).

Rules require land occupiers to destroy all Tench in any pond or waterway.

Assistance may be available from Bay of Plenty Regional Council by way of an approved programme.

It is an offence under sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to sell, offer for sale, display, release, move or breed Tench in the Bay of Plenty region.

How do I get rid of Tench?

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.

