

Koi carp

Cyprinus carpio

What does it look like?

Koi carp look a lot like goldfish except they grow to larger sizes (in New Zealand up to 10kg and 75cm long) and have two pairs of whisker-like feelers, also called barbels, at the corner of their mouth. They are highly variable in colour, often accompanied with irregular blotching of black, red, gold, orange or pearly white. Koi carp are an Unwanted Organism and a Noxious fish.



Why is it a problem?

When feeding, koi carp suck up and expel material from the bottom like a vacuum, filtering out edible material, which in the process disturbs the bottom sediments of a lake or river.

Because of their fast breeding and large size, this usually results in constant 'muddying' of the water, with no chance for this mud to settle. As a result, the light levels are reduced, which negatively affects the habitat of native plant life and other native fish and invertebrates. This also makes for unpleasant swimming at recreational freshwater water sites.



Control Methods

GW does not currently have a programme in place to control koi carp. The Department of Conservation is the primary agency responsible for managing invasive freshwater fish.

Related Links

Invasive Fish Management Handbook <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/science-publications/conservation-publications/threats-and-impacts/freshwater/nz-invasive-fish-management-handbook/>

Department of Conservation - Koi carp <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/freshwater-pests/koi-carp/>

NZ Freshwater Weed and Pest Visual Guide <https://www.thisisus.nz/assets/Resources/New-Zealand-freshwater-weed-and-pest-visual-guide.pdf>

Freshwater Invasive Species Guide 2020 https://niwa.co.nz/sites/default/files/Freshwater%20invasive%20species%20of%20New%20Zealand%202020_1.pdf

Check Clean Dry <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity/exotic-pests-and-diseases-in-new-zealand/active-biosecurity-responses-to-pests-and-diseases/exotic-freshwater-clams-corbicula/stop-clams-from-spreading/>

Keeping up with the kākahi <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/ourchangingworld/558532/our-changing-world-keeping-up-with-the-kakahi>

Rules

Under Section 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 no person can sell, propagate, breed, distribute or otherwise spread any pest in a Pest Management Plan, or any unwanted organism. Not complying with Section 52 or 53 is an offence under the Act, and may result in penalties noted in Section 157(1).

People who possess, control, rear, raise, hatch or consign Noxious Fish without authority are liable for a fine of \$5,000 under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

Report this Pest/Weed

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/footer-links/contact-us/>

Koi carp

Cyprinus carpio