

# QUICK FACTS PRUSSIAN CARP



**Aquatic invasive species are non-native animals or plants that can cause economic or environmental harm in waterways where they are introduced. Prussian Carp, a type of wild goldfish, is a harmful aquatic invasive species and has recently been found in Alberta. The species invades aquatic ecosystems and poses severe threats to aquatic habitats and native fish populations.**

## **DON'T LET IT LOOSE!**

Here's how you can help prevent the spread of Prussian Carp, and other harmful aquatic invasive species:

- 1.** Never release aquarium or domestic pond water, plants, dead or live animals into water bodies. Common aquarium and pond plants and animals can become invasive when released into the wild, potentially also spreading diseases to native species.
- 2.** If you catch a Prussian Carp while angling, please kill it and either take it home to eat or properly dispose of the carcass in the garbage.
- 3.** Know the law! It is illegal to use live bait fish in Alberta. It is also illegal to move live fish from one water body to another. Penalties for illegally transferring fish can be up to \$100,000 and/or a year in prison.



## PRUSSIAN CARP QUICK FACTS:

- There are many different species of invasive carp now found in North America. Many invasive carp were imported as pond or aquarium species or sold in food markets. So far, Alberta and Saskatchewan are the only jurisdictions in North America known to have Prussian Carp.
- It is not known what caused the initial introduction of Prussian Carp to Alberta. The species has established breeding populations across the province in several ponds and lakes, and in the main stem and tributaries of the Bow, Rosebud, Red Deer and South Saskatchewan rivers.
- Prussian Carp is an extremely hardy and rapidly reproducing fish. They have been found in aquatic environments with very low oxygen and generally poor water quality: places like dugouts and drainage ditches, where less tolerant, native fish would not survive. They are also known to be able to survive out of water for relatively long periods of time.
- Prussian Carp females are ready to reproduce within one to two years and can spawn up to three times per year, making them a prolific invader.
- Prussian Carp pose threats to native fish populations by outcompeting native species for food and habitat, as well as spreading new diseases and pathogens.
- They are easily spread from one water body to another, and it is extremely costly and difficult to try and manage, contain and destroy them once they have become established.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES, CALL:

**1-855-336-BOAT (2628)**

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