

AIS

Aquatic Invasive Species

RUDD



Photo of *Scardinius erythrophthalmus* by [Zienert, S.](#)

COMMON NAMES: Rudd, redeye and pearl roach

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*

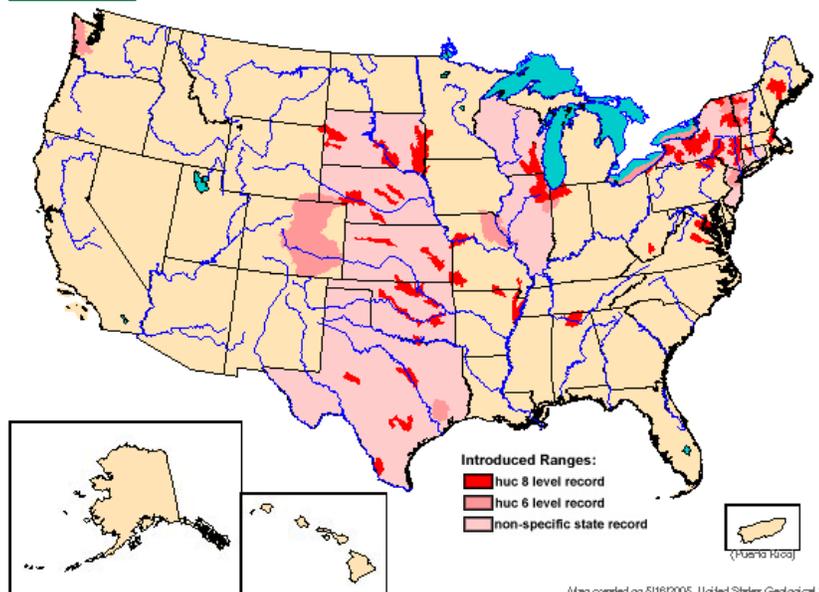
DISTRIBUTION: Rudd are found in lakes, rivers, marshland and ponds with little current and prefer large weed beds. This freshwater species can also acclimate to brackish conditions. While native to Eurasia, rudd have been introduced into waters of Canada, Morocco, New Zealand, Spain, Tunisia and have been collected in 21 states in the U.S.

Indiana: Rudd have been collected from a number of locations in the state. Reproduction appears to be minimal or non-existent.

DESCRIPTION: Rudd, a member of the minnow family, is golden-olive and pales to a silvery-white on the belly. Many of the fins are bright red. The rudd tends to have eye color ranging from pink to gold. Adults commonly reach over 15 inches in length. Rudd may commonly be confused with the Indiana native golden shiner, however, the red fins easily distinguish the rudd.



Scardinius erythrophthalmus



Map created on 5/18/2005. United States Geological Survey

LIFE CYCLE BIOLOGY: Rudd are largely carnivorous when young, feeding on snails, insects, and small crustaceans. As they grow larger, they begin feeding on aquatic vegetation. Adults mature at 2-3 years of age and spawning occurs in May-June. They reproduce by external fertilization by dropping a large number of small eggs among aquatic vegetation.

PATHWAYS/HISTORY: Native to the Caspian and Aral sea basins of Western Europe, rudd was brought to the United States in the early 1900s, possibly because of its European popularity as a food and game species. In the early 1980's, Arkansas fish farmers began culturing rudd and marketing them to the bait industry as a hardy and colorful bait minnow. These new and unique minnows were then distributed to many states. It was not until rudd began showing up in the wild before state and federal governments realized the exotic rudd was being cultured and sold as bait.

DISPERSAL/SPREAD: It is suspected that most occurrences of rudd in the United States are the result of anglers releasing their bait. Since rudd and golden shiner (a popular native bait species) look so similar anglers may often be unaware that an exotic species is in their bait bucket. Once established, this species is able to spread within connected water bodies. Due its value as a game species in Eurasia, some angling clubs and societies may stock these fish.

RISKS/IMPACTS: Like most invasive species, rudd compete with native species for limited resources. Though largely carnivorous, rudd can shift its diet to vegetation unlike most indigenous species. If reproducing populations become established, they may have adverse effects to aquatic vegetation. The rudd readily hybridizes with Indiana's native golden shiner (*Notemigonus crysoleucas*). This crossbreeding may cause unknown effects to the wild populations of the native species, such as loss of fitness and spawning behavior.

MANAGEMENT/PREVENTION: Many states outlaw the use of rudd as a live baitfish. In Indiana, it is illegal to possess live rudd. For this and other regulations on Indiana's fish and wildlife please visit: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T03120/A00090.PDF> (specifically: **312 IAC 9-6-7 Exotic fish**).

By learning about rudd and educating yourself on the ecological and economical impacts, you can help stop their spread. You can also practice a few good techniques for stopping the spread of rudd and other invasive fish.

- ✓ Inspect your bait for fish that look different than the others before you begin fishing and dispose of those in question in the trash.
- ✓ Dispose of unused bait in the trash or on land. **NEVER DISPOSE OF UNUSED BAIT IN THE WATER!**
- ✓ Never transfer live fish from one body of water to another.

- ✓ If you feel you have caught a rudd, please kill the fish and have it identified by a fisheries biologist for verification. You can determine the nearest fisheries biologist by visiting the following web site:
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/fish/fishing/fishbiol.htm>

REFERENCES:

Scardinius erythrophthalmus (Linnaeus 1758). NAS FactSheet.
<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.asp?speciesID=648>.

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